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## McDOUGALL ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL \$2 MILLION CONTRIBUTION FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES OF THE FORMER U.S.S.R.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced an increase in Canada's humanitarian assistance to countries of the former U.S.S.R. An additional \$2 million is being donated to the Canadian Red Cross, particularly for new humanitarian relief efforts in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova.

The new contribution comes in response to the January 30 appeal for \$52.7 million, launched by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It brings to \$8 million Canada's contribution to the international campaign to aid the countries of the region through their first critical winter of independence.

"The recent Washington conference on economic assistance to the former Soviet Union proved the need for co-ordination and careful targeting of aid. I believe we are accomplishing these goals," said Mrs. McDougall. "This new contribution responds to specific needs identified by the International Red Cross. I am confident the Red Cross is the organization best placed to ensure that our aid reaches its destination."

The \$2 million will be used by the Canadian Red Cross for the purchase of medicines and medical supplies targeted for children in hospitals, pregnant women and the elderly.

The government has already provided \$6 million to the Canadian Red Cross for its relief program in Ukraine, Russia, the Baltic States, Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

The Canadian Red Cross welcomes cash donations to its Solidarity Assistance Program at any of its branch offices.

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