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Canadian Support for Reforms in Central and Eastern Europe and in the U.S.S.R.

Canada is participating, with other Western countries, in the revitalization process under way in Central and Eastern Europe. Both bilaterally and through multilateral initiatives such as the Group of 24 (G-24) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which includes the U.S.S.R., Canada is contributing funds and technical assistance to the twin processes of democratization and the transformation to market economies. Our support is predicated on the effective implementation of both political and economic reforms.

Last October, Canada announced a \$42 million assistance package for Poland and Hungary. Immediately following the announcement, \$12 million in emergency food aid was provided to Poland. The money received from the sale of the food supplied has gone into a jointly administered Counterpart Fund to be used for rural development projects. Both Poland and Hungary will receive \$10 million over five years for economic development projects, including management training, development of the private sector and support for restructuring. A revolving short-term, export credit insurance facility for \$20 million is being established for Poland. Canada has also contributed another \$30 million to the Stabilization Fund for Poland to back the convertibility of the Polish zloty.

Other assistance and co-operative efforts are taking many forms. In addition to humanitarian assistance and support for political reforms, Canada is actively encouraging Canadian trade and investment in Central and Eastern European countries to assist them in becoming fully integrated into Western markets. Some recent initiatives include:

Emergency Assistance

- \$500 000 worth of disposable syringes and urgent medical supplies for Romania;

Support for Democratic Institutions

- \$40 000 to Radio Canada International for equipment and training for radio networks in the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic (CSFR), Hungary and Poland;
- \$200 000 for Elections Canada to advise and assist the CSFR in holding free elections;
- \$36 000 for providing 10 tonnes of computer paper to print voting lists for Bulgaria's elections;
- \$10 000 worth of books to the main library at Bucharest University to help replace some of the collection destroyed by fire during the revolution; and
- programs for training and for exchanging information on parliamentary procedures were set up by the Speaker of the House of Commons: the first of these programs was with Poland in March 1990; a program for the CSFR is being arranged; and a similar initiative is scheduled with the U.S.S.R. this autumn.