

POST-HOSTILITIES ASSISTANCE AND RECONSTRUCTION

Victims of the Conflict

Canada's first priority will be the needs of the victims of the conflict. Canada has been among the first to respond not just with commitments, but with cash disbursements to the humanitarian needs arising from the Gulf crisis and the war. From the \$77.5 million package of humanitarian and economic assistance Canada has committed to those affected by the Gulf crisis, to date Canada has provided a total of some \$16 million to Canadian and international organizations for humanitarian assistance since the crisis began, \$5 million of this since the war began.

The UN agencies, coordinated by the UN Disaster Relief Organization, and the International Committee of the Red Cross have already positioned themselves within the region to address humanitarian needs, and are ready to move into Iraq and Kuwait as soon as they are able.

Canada stands ready to provide further support as soon as it is needed to both international organizations and Canadian non-governmental organizations offering effective assistance in the region, including shelter, food, medicine, medical care and relative location services. Canada will also provide food aid as required.

Infrastructure Damage

Countries which have sustained damage to their infrastructure will need project and investment financing, technical assistance and goods and services. Wealthy countries of the region, such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait itself, are likely to take a leading role in any reconstruction effort through such organizations as the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Assistance from outside the region may well be required. The concern will be to ensure that adequate financial, technical and material resources are available to all the countries requiring assistance, particularly the poorer countries of the region which may be affected. Options include using existing regional or international institutions, as well as creating new institutions to channel and coordinate assistance. Assistance may also be provided by donors on a bilateral basis either as grants or as loans.