



communiqué

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GOVERNMENT APPOINTS CO-ORDINATOR ON AFRICAN FAMINE

OTTAWA--The appointment of David MacDonald as Canadian Emergency Co-ordinator/African Famine was announced today by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister for External Relations, the Honourable Mme Vézina. Mr. MacDonald will begin his duties immediately.

Thousands of Ethiopians are starving to death, and according to some observers, 7 million are endangered by the food crisis. On the entire African continent, 150 million people in 24 countries are facing severe food shortages. In appointing Mr. MacDonald, the Government is responding to this human tragedy and seeking to involve as many Canadians as possible in the process.

Reporting to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Co-ordinator will work directly with the Minister for External Relations and the President of CIDA. He will have access to all levels of government.

The Canadian Emergency Co-ordinator/African Famine will: assess the food crisis in Africa and particularly in Ethiopia; propose concrete steps for the government to take in providing assistance; work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in mobilizing and channeling Canadian support to feed the hungry; and, liaise with provincial governments and encourage their support and assistance.

On a per capita basis Canadians are already the world's most generous donors of food aid, noted the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) a total of \$362.3 million in food aid is being provided for 1984-85. Ethiopia is receiving \$25 million in the current year, representing an increase of more than 50 per cent from 1983-84; on both an absolute and a per capita basis Canada has been the largest donor of food to Ethiopia, in the last four years giving between one-quarter and one-third of all the food aid received by that stricken country.

Biography of Mr. MacDonald is attached.

The Honourable David Samuel Horne MacDonald, Privy Councillor

David MacDonald was born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on August 20, 1936 and attended Prince of Wales College, Dalhousie University and Pine Hill Divinity Hall. A United Church minister, Mr. MacDonald is married with four children. He is a member of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, the United Nations Association, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the Parliament of World Federalists.

First elected to the House of Commons in 1965, Mr. MacDonald was re-elected in 1968, 1972, 1974 and 1979. In 1979 he was made a Member of the Privy Council and appointed Secretary of State and Minister of Communications.

Since leaving politics in 1980, Mr. MacDonald has held a number of positions: Fellow in Residence at the Institute for Research on Public Policy, 1980-82; President of the Futures Secretariat, 1981-82; Program Director and Special Advisor to the Leader of the Opposition, 1982-83; and Director of Logistics for the Papal Visit, 1983-84. Mr. MacDonald, currently residing in Toronto, is President-Designate, the Canadian Inter-Faith Network.