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MONIQUE LANDRY SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT SUDAN

At the request of the Minister of External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, senior officials of the Department of External Affairs met recently with the Sudanese Ambassador to Canada to discuss the ongoing tragedy of the civil war in the Sudan.

"I attach great importance to finding a solution to this devastating conflict which has plagued the country for many years" Monique Landry said.

The Canadian government used the occasion to reiterate its serious concerns about the disastrous effects the civil war is having on the Sudanese population and pressed the Sudanese government to explore all means available to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Canada is further urging all parties to extend and intensify their cooperation with international relief organizations including UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as non-governmental organizations to ensure the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance to the people affected.

The Minister also pointed out that economic circumstances and natural disasters such as drought, the recent floods and locusts had intensified the suffering of the people concerned and had forced large numbers to leave their homes. Mrs. Landry expressed the hope that the entire Sudanese nation would work toward finding a solution to the problems afflicting the country.

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Minister for External Relations and International Development Ministre des Relations extérieures et du développement international The Canadian government's contribution this year in response to these crises exceeds \$17.5 million and includes \$9 million in food aid, \$2 million for Sudanese refugees who have fled to Ethiopia, and more than \$2 million for the relief activities of Canadian and United Nations organizations present in the Sudan.