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CANADA SENDING FORCES TO RWANDA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Minister of National Defence David Collette announced today that Canada has agreed to a request from the UN Secretary General to provide additional support for an expanded United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). Canada will contribute a military communications unit consisting of up to 350 personnel. The Force Commander, Maj.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire, and 10 other Canadian Forces officers are already serving in UNAMIR headquarters. UNAMIR's mandate includes the protection of civilians, escorting relief shipments and serving as an intermediary in arranging a cease-fire. This operation is separate and distinct from the proposed French intervention currently under discussion in the United Nations.

"The world has been shocked by the human tragedy unfolding in Rwanda. Canada has been involved in international efforts to resolve the Rwandan conflict since well before this current crisis, and we welcome the opportunity to contribute further to this vital peacekeeping endeavour," said Mr. Ouellet.

"This new Canadian contribution expands our commitment to UN operations in Rwanda and will be a key factor in ensuring the effectiveness of the UN mission in that country," said Mr. Collette. "Our additional troops will join Maj.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire, a Canadian who has shown outstanding professionalism and courage."

These Canadian Forces communications personnel will be responsible for developing and operating an expanded communications network for UNAMIR, which will grow from its present strength of 450 to a projected level of 5 500 troops. The Canadian Forces have also provided crucial airlift support to the UN in Rwanda. Since April 10, a Canadian Hercules aircraft has carried some 730 tonnes of humanitarian relief supplies and

equipment, as well as 1 995 passengers. A second Canadian Forces Hercules aircraft has arrived in Nairobi to expand the UN's airlift capacity in Rwanda.

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