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CARLETON PLACE COMPANY TO BE AWARDED SEVEN MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT BY CANADIAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Ed Lumley, announced today that Canadian Commercial Corporation has received a contract worth \$7,637,400 from the World Health Organization, for aerial spraying services in support of WHO's Onchocerciasis Control Program. The disease, commonly known as "river blindness", has disabled tens of thousands of people in tropical Africa, Yemen and parts of South and Central America through infection by the filarial worm, Onchocerca volvulus.

The contract, which resulted from an international competitive bid issued by WHO, will be subcontracted by CCC to Viking Helicopters, Ltd., of Carleton Place, Ontario. It calls for the aerial pesticide spraying of the Volta River Basin breeding sites, and is aimed at reducing the prevalence and intensity of the disease, as well as to open up deserted fertile lands for human settlements, farming and the raising of livestock.

Mr. Lumley said that the contract would provide employment for approximately thirty Canadian pilots, engineers, managers and technicians. A total of thirteen helicopters and Short-Take-Off-and-Landing, fixed-wing aircraft will be engaged in the operation during the period from January 1, 1983 until December 31, 1985. The contract was negotiated by the Department of Supply and Services and will also be managed by them on behalf of CCC. This is the third three-year program for which Viking Helicopters and Canadian Commercial Corporation have been the successful bidders.

The spraying program begun in 1974 is expected to continue until 1993, and will cover a 764,000 km² area in parts of Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Togo and Upper Volta. It is a joint undertaking by WHO, the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization, the U.N. Development Program, the World Bank, and various other donors, including Canada.

Canadian Commercial Corporation contracts with foreign governments and international agencies on behalf of Canadian suppliers of goods and services. In 1981/82, CCC achieved sales of over \$500 million, involving 435 Canadian firms and more than 50 foreign customers.

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