



communiqué

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May 31, 1985

CANADIAN EMERGENCY COORDINATOR FOR AFRICAN FAMINE'S MANDATE EXTENDED

The Honourable Monique Vézina, Minister of External Relations, today announced the extension of the mandate of the Canadian Emergency Coordinator for African Famine until March 31, 1986.

The Honourable David MacDonald was first appointed to the post in November 1984. Under the renewed mandate he will continue his work coordinating and facilitating Canadian emergency relief and recovery efforts to Ethiopia and other African countries affected by the drought and famine until the end of 1985.

During the last three months of his mandate, Mr. MacDonald will concentrate on ensuring the initiatives and programmes undertaken by his office are integrated into existing institutions.

Some of the key responsibilities of the Canadian Emergency Coordinator include:

- Advising the Government on all measures to be taken regarding the situation in Africa and the nature of the emergency assistance to be provided to drought-stricken countries.
- Assisting voluntary organizations in their efforts to deploy the generous donations of thousands of Canadians to victims of the famine. In support of voluntary agencies, he will manage an \$18 million fund set up principally for recovery projects.

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- Keeping the Canadian public informed about the crisis in Africa and acting as a facilitator and government spokesman for groups and individuals involved in the relief effort. He will manage a \$1.5 million special fund for special initiatives as suggested in the coordinator's report: «The African Famine and Canada's response».

Details of the mandate are included in the attached correspondence between Mrs. Vézina and Mr. MacDonald.

Source: Michel Dompierre
995-7269

TRANSLATION



Ministre des Relations extérieures

Minister for External Relations

Canada

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2

May 30, 1985

The Honourable David MacDonald
Canadian Coordinator for African
Famine Relief
200 Promenade du Portage
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0G4

Dear Sir:

This letter concerns the report that you submitted to the Government on the emergency situation in Africa, the recommendations of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence that reviewed the report, and the conversations that I have had with the Secretary of State on the continuation of your office's operations.

First, let me thank you on behalf of the Government for all you have done in recent months in the area of Canadian aid to Ethiopia and drought-stricken African countries. You have done a remarkable job of mobilizing Canadian public opinion with respect to the African famine and of coordinating the activities of the voluntary organizations.

As you know, the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence has recommended extending your mandate, and the purpose of this letter is to invite you to continue as coordinator. This would entail a period of activities until December 31, 1985, and a further period of three months (to March 31, 1986), will be allowed for the preparation of the various reports and the integration of your office's operations into the programs of existing agencies.

Your mandate during the new term would be as follows:

Under the authority of the Minister for External Relations and in close cooperation with the President of the Canadian International Development Agency:

- ° Advise the Government on all measures to be taken regarding the situation in Africa and the nature of the emergency assistance to be provided to drought-stricken countries.

- Assist voluntary organizations, with the generous support of thousands of Canadians, in their efforts to aid famine victims. Manage, in consultation with the volunteer sector and CIDA, a fund of \$18 million to be used mainly for recovery projects devised by non-governmental organizations.
- Act as coordinator, facilitator and Government spokesperson towards all the organizations, authorities, groups and individuals concerned with the African crisis. In this regard, to manage a special \$1.5 million fund to be used to provide assistance to projects devised by individuals or groups for communication programs, twinning of regions and municipalities in Canada and Africa, exchanges in the health field, joint ventures, and any other project designed to bring assistance to drought-stricken areas.
- Serve as a link with provincial governments and encourage them to provide support and assistance.
- Take an active role in dialogue with other donor countries and international organizations providing emergency aid to Africa, wherever it is required. Participate in the work of the group of consultants which will prepare proposals for the ministers of foreign affairs of Economic Summit countries on closer cooperation with African countries, and report to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister for External Relations.
- Using CIDA's regular channels or specially recruited staff, arrange any mission considered necessary to ensure that Canada's emergency aid reaches its destinations.
- Provide advice on all assistance programs which are likely to affect drought-stricken countries.
- Facilitate the conduct of studies recommended in the «The African Famine and Canada's Response» report.
- Organize one or more symposiums on Canada's policy on Africa, for the Minister for External Relations.

In accomplishing these tasks, the coordinator will have access to all levels of the government machinery in the performance of his duties.

As you will have noted, this new mandate involves, to a great extent, the implementation of the recommendations which you made to the Government as well as those of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, to whom the Government will respond officially in coming weeks.

This mandate is a formidable one, but I am very hopeful that you will agree to take on these responsibilities.

Yours truly,

Monique Vézina



Gouvernement du Canada Government of Canada

Coordonnateur canadien
pour les secours
d'urgence Canadian Emergency
Coordinator

Famine africaine African Famine

May 30, 1985

The Honourable Monique Vézina
Minister of External Relations
125 Sussex Drive
Tower B - 5th Floor
Lester B. Pearson Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2

Madam Minister,

Thank you for your letter of May 30, 1985 inviting me to continue in my responsibilities as Canadian Emergency Coordinator/African Famine.

I am honoured by your confidence and in full agreement with the mandate you propose. It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I accept your invitation.

The leadership and support provided by the government when I undertook my responsibilities last November gave me comfort and satisfaction. I am grateful that again, for this new phase, I can count on your support and that of your colleagues. For my part, I wish to give you the assurance that all my energy will be dedicated to the new tasks ahead.

Yours sincerely,

David MacDonald
Canadian Emergency Coordinator
African Famine