

News Release

Minister for
External Relations
and International
Development



Communiqué

Ministre des
Relations extérieures
et du développement
international

No. 283

December 10, 1990

MONIQUE LANDRY LAUNCHES NEW ANTI-DRUG VIDEO TO PROMOTE SAFER TRAVEL ABROAD

The Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, today hosted the premiere showing of "The Long Way Home," a video which underscores the dangers of drug trafficking and drug use in foreign countries.

The video was produced by the Department for its Drug Information Program, part of Canada's National Drug Strategy, and will target youth, students and travellers of all ages. The Program educates and informs Canadians about the dangers of drug involvement through pamphlets, posters and exhibits across Canada.

"Nearly 500 Canadian citizens are in foreign jails, mostly for drug-related offences. While our consular service has a proud tradition of assisting Canadians when in difficulty abroad, there are limitations. Travellers should remember that they are subject to local laws, and penalties for drug offences can be far more severe than at home. This new video highlights the inherent dangers," Mme. Landry said.

The vast majority of Canadian travellers do not experience the kind of difficulties which require the assistance of a Canadian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate. The self-reliant and informed traveller can usually avoid problems.

Recognizing the importance of consular services, External Affairs and International Trade Canada will launch a new Consular Awareness Program early in 1991, to help travellers avoid problems before they occur. Mme. Landry noted that the Department provides some 600,000 separate consular services to the Canadian public each year.

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