



news release

Date

For release

JULY 26, 1989.

No. 176

FUNDING INCREASE TO ASSIST SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, the Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Bill McKnight, today announced a significant expansion of Canada's Military Training Assistance Program (MTAP). This year funding for the program from the Department of External Affairs will more than double from \$550,000 to \$1,200,000 and in 1990 the program budget will be further increased to \$1,800,000. This enhanced funding will allow Canada substantially to increase our security assistance to the countries of Southern Africa, especially the Front Line States, as well as expand military training assistance to our Commonwealth Caribbean and other partners in the developing world.

Mr. Clark recalled that on September 29, 1988, he and Madame Landry, had announced Canada's intention to respond positively to requests for assistance for the protection of infrastructure projects in Southern Africa: to help the countries of the region overcome serious security problems; and to combat destabilization, the principal area of concern discussed by the Commonwealth foreign ministers at their February meeting in Harare. In this context, he and Madame Landry had also indicated that more military personnel from the Front Line States could be trained through the existing Military Training Assistance Program. This major expansion of the program gives effect to that undertaking. Nearly half of the total funds available will be set aside for Southern African countries. Additional openings on Canadian Forces training courses have already been identified and offered to the Front Line States.

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Since 1965 the Department of External Affairs has funded training for military personnel from over twenty countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean through the Military Training Assistance Program. This training has been provided in Canada by the Department of National Defence through the established facilities and resources of the Canadian Forces Training System. The Military Training Assistance Program provides low-cost, high-quality technical and leadership training to military personnel from the developing world and is the most effective and economical form of military assistance Canada can provide.