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CLARK ANNOUNCES NEW MEASURES IN AID OF ARMENIA

EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced further Canadian Government assistance to the Soviet Union and reported on steps now in train to provide assistance to earthquake victims in Soviet Armenia.

Mr. Clark said that the Canadian Government would contribute another \$5,000,000 in emergency assistance to provide much needed medical equipment and supplies for the earthquake victims. Today's contribution is in addition to the \$550,000 already announced.

Noting that Canadian and Soviet officials have been in constant contact since the earthquake, Mr. Clark commented that Soviet authorities had made it clear that their first priority for assistance is the provision of medical equipment and supplies such as plasma, disposable syringes, anti-shock medication, antibiotics, protein preparations for injection and hormone preparations. The most urgently needed equipment includes: blood and liquid transfusion systems; catheters; hospital air mattresses; portable anaesthetic equipment; dialysis machines; and oxygen equipment.

Mr. Clark added that: "while Soviet officials were very appreciative of offers from Canadians to travel to the area to offer their help, they believe that they have adequate medical and relief personnel on the ground and that no additional foreign personnel are needed at this time". In the circumstances Mr. Clark suggested that Canadians wishing to help the earthquake victims could best do so by contributing to the Red Cross through their local Red Cross offices. Chartered banks will also accept cheques on behalf of the Armenian relief effort.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada

Mr. Clark stated that both Soviet civil and Canadian military aircraft will be flying from Canada in the coming days to transport emergency relief supplies. Canadian military flights are departing tomorrow and Wednesday while special Aeroflot flights are scheduled to leave tonight and Thursday in addition to the regularly scheduled flight on Friday. Extra Canadian military flights will be scheduled as necessary.

Mr. Clark said that Canadians wishing to contribute medical supplies and other materials for the relief effort should contact the Armenian Community Center in Toronto at 416-491-2900 and the Tekeyan Cultural Association in Montreal at 514-747-6680. To obtain further information about contributing to the relief effort, they can call the Department of External Affairs Emergency Task Force at 613-996-9134.

