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CANADA TO PROVIDE \$250,000 TO INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS FOR YUGOSLAV RELIEF EFFORTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced that Canada is providing \$250,000, through the Canadian Red Cross, to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to assist victims of the conflict in Yugoslavia.

"The fighting in Yugoslav republics has left hundreds of thousands of people isolated or displaced, cut off from the food and medical attention they desperately need," said Mrs. McDougall. "I welcome the efforts of the ICRC to bring emergency relief to all sides of this conflict, in its long-standing non-partisan manner."

Canada continues to press for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict through the Peace Conference on Yugoslavia in the Hague, supported by the United Nations, the European Community and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Canadians are also participating in the International Ceasefire Monitoring Mission.

"All Canadians have been horrified by the daily scenes of violence and destruction in parts of Yugoslavia. I invite individual Canadians to make their own contributions to the relief efforts," added Mrs. McDougall.

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For more information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
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BACKGROUND TO INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS ACTIVITIES IN YUGOSLAVIA

- ◆ The ICRC has a long-standing reputation for competence and credibility in delivering humanitarian relief in zones of conflict.
- ◆ The objectives of the ICRC in Yugoslavia are:
 - to protect people detained in connection with the conflict;
 - to assist the more than 230,000 people displaced by the fighting;
 - to provide emergency medical assistance;
 - to strengthen the heavily burdened medical infrastructure;
 - to strengthen the operational capacity of all components of the Yugoslav Red Cross.
- ◆ Since the beginning of the crisis, the ICRC has maintained dialogue with all the parties concerned and has thus been able to provide assistance to all regions affected by the conflict.
- ◆ The ICRC is appealing internationally for approximately \$6.2 million for its efforts in the Yugoslav republics.
- ◆ The ICRC has set up regional offices in Zagreb and Belgrade, in addition to local field offices, to ensure the fair distribution of international aid.

For more information on the Red Cross activities in Yugoslavia, media representatives may contact:

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