

News Release

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CANADA CONTRIBUTES \$1.5 MILLION TO UNHCR FOR SOUTH AFRICAN EXILES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced today in New Delhi a \$1.5-million contribution to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The contribution responds to an appeal by the UNHCR for international assistance following the signing on September 4 of an agreement between the South African government and the UNHCR for the repatriation and reintegration of South African exiles. "The situation in South Africa is changing, but our commitment to supporting the development needs of the victims of apartheid continues," said Mrs. McDougall.

The Minister made the announcement at the opening of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa in New Delhi. Mrs. McDougall is chairing the meeting of Foreign Ministers from Australia, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe which is reviewing the Commonwealth policy towards South Africa.

This contribution is part of the Canadian government's commitment of \$5.85 million to assist in the repatriation and reintegration of exiles and released political prisoners. The Prime Minister pledged this assistance during Mr. Nelson Mandela's visit to Canada in June 1990. A disbursement of \$1.55 million has already been made, primarily to assist released political prisoners.

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With the conclusion of the agreement between the South African government and the UNHCR, it is expected that the repatriation program will progress rapidly, and further Canadian contributions will be made to fulfil Canada's pledge.

The \$1.5-million contribution comes from the International Humanitarian Assistance Program of the Canadian International Development Agency.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874