



---

# news release

---

Date **September 21, 1994**

No. 183

For release

## CANADA ANNOUNCES \$10 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced a \$10-million humanitarian assistance package for the victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The package will support the ongoing relief efforts of the United Nations (UN) agencies, the International Red Cross and two Canadian organizations working in the former Yugoslavia.

"I believe we have a moral obligation to continue to help. This aid package will assist the groups most affected by this tragedy and help them to get through a winter that will exacerbate the already difficult conditions in the former Yugoslavia," Mr. Ouellet said.

The Canadian contribution will be allocated to a series of bilateral and multilateral programs:

- \$3.5 million in Canadian food aid delivered by the World Food Program;
- \$2 million to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to support refugee camps and the logistics of ongoing relief efforts;
- \$1 million to the UN Children's Fund for mother and child health care programs and children's education;
- \$500 000 to the World Health Organization to help improve medical facilities, to support local health personnel and to provide medicine and medical supplies;
- \$1 million to the International Red Cross for the protection of ethnic minorities and the provision of emergency supplies to vulnerable groups;
- \$1.5 million to two Canadian agencies active in Sarajevo: CARE Canada for the ongoing installation of water purification systems in and around Sarajevo, and Queen's University to strengthen rehabilitation services for the

wounded and handicapped in Sarajevo and other centres in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and

- \$500 000 to the Special United Nations Fund for the restoration of essential services in Sarajevo.

The Minister also noted that Canada is among the four main participants in the ongoing humanitarian airlift into Sarajevo in co-operation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Canadian aircraft have conducted nearly 1500 flights, transporting more than 10 000 passengers and 20 000 metric tonnes of food and relief supplies.

Mr. Ouellet made the announcement today in a statement to the House of Commons.

This contribution brings Canada's total humanitarian assistance to the former Yugoslavia, since fall 1991, to approximately \$60 million. Funding for this contribution was provided in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
(613) 995-1874