

News Release

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McDOUGALL ANNOUNCES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced that Canada is providing \$500,000 in humanitarian assistance to Armenia and Azerbaijan. The funds will be channelled through the Canadian Red Cross for the purchase of relief supplies. They are part of a \$5-million package of humanitarian assistance for the U.S.S.R., announced November 1 by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

"I remain deeply concerned by the continuing conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh," said Mrs. McDougall. "This dispute has resulted in human rights violations, deprivation and hardships for the population of the region. Canada calls upon all sides to show flexibility and to compromise to find a lasting solution to this conflict."

The Minister welcomed the recent mediation efforts by Russian President Yeltsin and Kazakh President Nazarbayev. Canada has conveyed its concerns to Soviet, Azerbaijani and Armenian authorities, and the Canadian Embassy in Moscow is monitoring the situation closely.

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Canada

The \$250,000 earmarked for Armenia will help the Red Cross to provide much-needed emergency relief. It comes in addition to the generous support, amounting to some \$8 million, extended by Canadians immediately following the devastating earthquake of December 1988. The \$250,000 earmarked for Azerbaijan will be used for humanitarian assistance for both Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The Canadian Red Cross welcomes cash donations from Canadians to this program at any of its branch offices.

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