

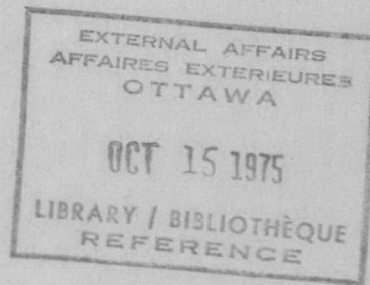


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MESSAGE BY  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
THE HONOURABLE ALLAN J. MACEachEN,  
TO HIS PORTUGUESE COUNTERPART,  
MR. ERNESTO MELO ANTUNES

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs announced today that following a Cabinet decision, the Canadian Government has decided to renew its offer of economic assistance to Portugal. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has sent the following personal message to the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ernesto Melo Antunes, informing him of this offer:

"My dear Colleague,

I wish to congratulate you upon your recent reappointment as Foreign Minister of Portugal. Although these heavy responsibilities are not new to you, you undertake them at a crucial and decisive time of history. I wish you every success. As you know, Canada attaches great importance to the democratic principles supported by all NATO members in the Ottawa declaration of 1974 and to our common dedication to the principles of democracy, respect for human rights, justice and social progress.

I draw great satisfaction from your government's dedication to these aims.

I remember vividly my visit to your country last April, the warm hospitality you offered me on that occasion and the fruitful exchange of views which we had. You will remember that during those conversations I expressed to you the desire of Canada to do whatever it could to assist Portugal. I suggested that joint examination of means of improving economic cooperation between our countries in various fields might be undertaken. I wish today, Mr. Minister, on behalf of the government of Canada, officially to renew this offer of economic cooperation with your country. I hope that we will soon be able to take practical steps to give effect to this offer of increased economic cooperation. Specifically we would be pleased to receive an economic mission in the event that you wished to use this means of exploring further how our cooperation might be

developed.

I take this opportunity, my dear Colleague,  
to reiterate the assurances of my highest consideration.

Allan J. MacEachen  
Secretary of State for  
External Affairs of Canada"