
NEWS RELEASE

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CANADA TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID TO TOGO

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall, and the Minister for External Relations and International Development, Monique Vézina, announced today that Canada will provide \$250,000 in humanitarian aid to the victims of the civil disorders in Togo.

"The Canadian contribution, which will consist of shelter and medicine for displaced persons, will be provided by the Canadian International Development Agency, thus responding to an appeal by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to assist the Togolese refugees," Mrs. Vézina said.

For some months now, Togo has been struggling with social and political instability on account of serious problems hindering the implementation of the democratic process. In the wake of violent confrontations in Lomé, more than 300,000 Togolese have had to take refuge in Bénin or Ghana, or move to the interior of Togo.

"We earnestly desire to see negotiations resume as soon as possible, and to see the negotiators, regardless of their political persuasion, do what is needed to set Togo back on a democratic course," said Mrs. McDougall. She went on to express the hope that France and Germany would use their good offices to promote dialogue between the parties.

On March 3, senior officials of External Affairs and International Trade Canada received Mr. Léopold Gnininvi, President of the Togolese Democratic Opposition Coalition, and a few members of the Togolese community in Canada. Together they took stock of the situation in Togo since the failure of the negotiations in Colmar, France, on February 8, 1993, between the Coalition and representatives

of President Eyadéma's regime. The Coalition is seeking the support of the international community with a view to resuming the democratic process in Togo and providing aid for refugees and displaced persons.

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