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FUNERAL OF MADAME INDIRA GANDHI

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today laid a wreath at the bier of Madame Gandhi in New Delhi. After doing so, he stated that the Canadian Government and people share India's deep sense of loss over the passing of Madame Indira Gandhi, who not only was a strong and determined leader of her own country, but whose leading international role was a vital one. He expressed the hope that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's appeal for an end to communal violence so that a united India could live and prosper will be heeded. India's continued stability and creative vitality are of great importance to Canada and to the other members of the world community. In this regard, Mr. Clark reiterated Prime Minister Mulroney's reaffirmation of Canada's commitment to a strong and growing bilateral relationship.

The Canadian Delegation to the funeral ceremony led by Mr. Clark included the Right Honourable R.G.B. Dickson, Chief Justice of Canada, the Honourable Monique Vézina, Minister of External Relations, the Honourable R.B. Pratt, Prince Edward Island Minister of Fisheries and Labour, the Honourable Louise Harel, Quebec Minister for Immigration and Community Services, the Honourable Garde Gardom, British Columbia Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, the Honourable David MacDonald, Canadian Emergency Coordinator/African Famine, Mr. R.J. Skelley, Member of Parliament, and de Montigny Marchand, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of the Department of External Affairs.