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CANADA SENDS OBSERVER TO BANGLADESH ELECTIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canada has accepted with pleasure the Commonwealth Secretariat's request to participate in an observer mission to the February 27 Parliamentary elections in Bangladesh.

"Canada and the Commonwealth have supported the economic development of Bangladesh since its foundation in 1971. Canada is pleased to have an opportunity to support its democratic development as well," said Mr. Clark.

The Commonwealth organized the 12-member election observer team in response to an invitation by the Government of Bangladesh. It will visit polling stations, monitor the conduct of the elections, and report its findings to the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Mr. Emeka Anyaoku.

Canada's member on the observer team is Mr. Barry Turner, a former Member of Parliament who has extensive experience with issues of interest to developing countries of the Commonwealth.

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