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CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO OBSERVE PAKISTAN ELECTIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canada has dispatched an election observation team for the Pakistan elections of October 24, comprised of three members of Parliament: Allan Koury, (Progressive Conservative), Hochelaga-Maisonneuve; Charles-Eugène Marin, (Progressive Conservative), Gaspé; and Jesse Flis, (Liberal), Parkdale-High Park.

The election team, which has arrived in Pakistan, will be based in Lahore to monitor voting at selected polling stations and subsequent ballot counting. The Canadian team, which will work with those from other countries, will remain in Pakistan for the provincial assembly elections of October 27 and subsequent vote count. The Parliamentarians will submit a report to the Government of Canada on their observations.

Supporters of former Prime Minister Bhutto have alleged that the interim government is hindering her re-election campaign and attempting to ensure that the Pakistan Peoples Party does not win the election.

Canada has called for fair and open elections in the country. As a strong supporter of the democratic process in Pakistan, Canada has provided a multi-party election observation team for the duration of the elections and ballot counting, at the invitation of the Government of Pakistan.

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