



# communiqué

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## STATEMENT ON VIETNAMESE VIOLATIONS OF THAILAND'S SOVEREIGNTY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today issued the following statement on the recent Vietnamese violations of Thailand's sovereignty.

"The Government of Canada has been following with grave concern the deteriorating situation near the Thai-Cambodia border where Vietnamese forces have continued their offensive against Cambodian resistance groups, in the course of which Vietnam has flagrantly violated Thailand's sovereignty. I especially deplore the escalation of the situation brought about by the Vietnamese attacks, beginning on March 5, 1985, on the Cambodian base at Tatum occupied by defenders loyal to the resistance leader Prince Sihanouk, President of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. In order to facilitate the attack, a large Vietnamese force crossed into Thailand and as a result numerous casualties have been reported amongst Thai and Cambodian civilians and defenders. In addition, along the border large numbers of innocent civilians have fled to Thailand adding to the already onerous burden that country must bear through no fault of its own.

This ongoing violation of Thailand's sovereignty near Tatum, and other Vietnamese incursions along the border, is without justification and renders even more serious Vietnam's disregard for the many United Nations resolutions calling for the prompt withdrawal of its forces from Cambodia. The Government of Canada deplores Vietnam's disregard for the norms of international behaviour evident in the hostilities its forces are conducting on both sides of the Thai-Cambodia border."