



communiqué

N°:
No.: 220

DECEMBER 27, 1986.

AFGHANISTAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, The Right Honourable Joe Clark, today condemned the continued occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. He stressed the importance of restoring independence, sovereignty and genuine non-alignment to Afghanistan.

On the seventh anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, he expressed abhorrence at the continuing tragedy being inflicted upon the people of Afghanistan. During these seven years, over one million Afghans have died and five million, a third of the population, have fled the country and are now living as refugees. Mr. Clark called upon the Soviet Union to withdraw their forces from Afghanistan in order to end the human suffering that has resulted from their invasion.

Mr. Clark noted that the international community has expressed its overwhelming support in the United Nations for an independent Afghanistan. He welcomed the continuing efforts of the United Nations Secretary General to find a settlement to this war.