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CANADA WELCOMES APPOINTMENT OF NEW CABINET IN THAILAND

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today stated that Canada continues to follow political developments in Thailand closely. Mr. Clark said he was encouraged by the March 6 announcement of Prime Minister Anand's new Cabinet, which includes a significant number of experienced former Ministers and prominent Thai business and community leaders.

Mr. Clark expressed the hope that there would be a speedy return to an elected government. "Canada is confident that under the interim civilian administration of Prime Minister Anand and his Cabinet, Thailand will reinstate the democratic process in a short period," he said.

Mr. Clark emphasized that Canada and Thailand have developed strong and fruitful economic, social and humanitarian links in recent years. He noted that Canada looked to Thailand to act as a centre of economic development and political security in the Southeast Asia region.

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