

CONDEMNATION OF BORDER ATTACKS ON PAKISTAN

The Honourable Jean Chrétien, the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, today issued the following statement concerning recent attacks into Pakistan from Afghanistan.

The text of Mr. Chrétien's statement was as follows:

The Canadian government is deeply disturbed by an increase in the number of violations of Pakistan territory and air space bordering on Afghanistan. Canada condemns these intrusions which have involved serious loss of life and calls for the immediate cessation of such attacks on Pakistan. At least 51 persons have apparently been killed by bombing, artillery and rocket fire originating from Afghan territory. Many of the victims of the recent attacks have been Afghan refugees who, along with approximately one fifth of their fellow citizens, have been forced to flee from Afghanistan. These most recent deplorable incidents, along with the escalation of Soviet and Afghan military activity within Afghanistan, are another tragic dimension of the occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet forces. Canada appreciates the contribution made by Pakistan in providing assistance to between two and three million Afghan refugees. Canada also continues to provide substantial humanitarian support to the refugees. Canada supports the efforts of the UN Secretary General to identify an acceptable means of settling this grave continuing international issue through a restoration of the independence, sovereignty and genuine non-alignment of Afghanistan.