

News Release

Secretary of
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CLARK ANNOUNCES ASSISTANCE TO CZECHOSLOVAK ELECTION PROCESS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canada has contributed \$225,000 to Czechoslovakia to assist that country in the preparations for its upcoming national elections on June 8, 1990.

Canada's aid consists of fifteen million envelopes that will be used to hold the marked ballot papers of each voter, thereby ensuring that secrecy is observed in the process.

"Canada can help the countries of Central and Eastern Europe as they move towards democracy," stated Mr Clark. "Different countries will have different needs and we are pleased to be making this concrete contribution to facilitate free and fair elections in a country which moved so many of us in the West with its passionate struggle for democracy."

The initiative follows a fact-finding mission in March to Czechoslovakia by an Elections Canada team which was informed about a serious shortage of paper in that country. The envelopes were manufactured by two Canadian companies and have been shipped to Prague.

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