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## NEWS RELEASE

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No. 280

December 9, 1991

### CANADA SUSPENDS APPROVAL OF NEW AID PROJECTS TO INDONESIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, today announced that Canada has suspended the approval of development projects that provide direct assistance to the Government of Indonesia. Proposed projects worth \$30 million will be affected.

"Canadians were outraged at the recent killings in East Timor. This decision reflects our concern about the human rights situation in Indonesia," stated Mrs. McDougall.

The Ministers said that Canada is giving an immediate grant of \$150,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross for humanitarian assistance in East Timor. They said that Canada will also support international efforts, especially in the United Nations, to ensure that the findings of the Indonesian Commission of Inquiry into events in East Timor will be objective and independent.

"Canada's aid to Indonesia concentrates on human resource development and environmental co-operation. The projects that are already under way will be allowed to continue," said Mrs. Landry.