

News Release

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PROGRESS IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN CAMBODIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, welcomed today the outcome of the Paris meeting of the five Permanent Members of the U.N. Security Council on the Cambodian problem.

According to Mr. Clark, "The meeting represents a real step forward in accepting an enhanced role for the United Nations in the resolution of this tragic problem. Canada has consistently seen the U.N. as a central part of any settlement that could bring a durable peace to Cambodia. The recent Australian proposal for a U.N. Interim Administration pending free and fair democratic elections has helped get the dialogue back on track.

"As we made clear during our participation in the Paris Peace Conference last summer, Canada will continue to play its part in the peace-building process. We will be closely involved in the preparations for the reconvening of the Paris Conference. Canada still serves as co-chair to the Conference's First Committee which is to develop the mandate for an international peace-keeping and control mechanism. We will also be engaged in the full Security Council consideration of the steps which should now be taken. Throughout this process, we will be consulting closely with other key players.

"We expect that the next weeks will be a critical period in the peace process. Details of a potential U.N. role need to be worked out. Terms and conditions of a possible cease-fire have to be developed as do various options for managing the transitional period. This will require a renewal of the negotiations between the Cambodian parties, and a demonstration by them of flexibility and commitment to real peace. While the outlook is more positive than it has been since the end of the first meeting of the Paris Conference last summer, a great deal of work remains to be done."