



No. 076

April 8, 1988.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ON AFGHANISTAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today welcomed the announcement by the United Nations Secretary-General that an agreement on Afghanistan providing for the withdrawal of Soviet troops had been concluded.

He expressed concern, however, that the Geneva negotiations do not include a ceasefire agreement and do not provide for the termination of arms supplies. Mr. Clark also regretted that there has been no agreement on the establishment of a government in Afghanistan which is acceptable to the Mujahideen.

Mr. Clark said he hoped that, in spite of these deficiencies, efforts will continue to bring genuine peace to the long suffering people of Afghanistan allowing for the return of the millions of refugees to their homes. He added that the outcome of the Geneva process is only the first stage in creating conditions that will bring eventual peace to Afghanistan.

Mr. Clark stated that Canada is prepared to provide financial support and assistance to the United Nations in its efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan and to alleviate the misery of the millions of displaced persons. The government is examining, on an urgent basis, ways in which it can help. Canada is currently providing more than \$20 million a year to assist Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures