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CLARK ANNOUNCES GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS TO SAVE RADIO CANADA INTERNATIONAL

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced Government approval for special financing arrangements needed to maintain Radio Canada International (RCI) in existence. In December of last year, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) announced its intention to discontinue all RCI services on March 31, 1991.

"When the CBC announced its decision to stop funding RCI last year, I agreed to investigate ways of maintaining this important voice of Canada in the world," stated Mr. Clark. "I am very pleased that Cabinet was able to work out a financing package that will keep the service alive at a viable level."

Under the Government's special five-year package, \$13.5 million will be provided in 1991-92 to External Affairs and International Trade Canada to fund RCI. These funds will be covered under a separate Vote within the Department's main budget estimates and will gradually increase to \$18.5 million for the year 1995-96. These yearly separate Vote amounts will include replacement capital to upgrade RCI's transmitters which have deteriorated badly over the years.