

# News Release

Secretary of  
State for  
External Affairs



# Communiqué

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## MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today welcomed the announcement in Washington of progress in the Middle East peace process and congratulated all the parties involved on their persistence in pursuing an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

"Canada views the acceptance of USA Secretary of State Baker's 5 points, by both Israel and Egypt, as a most welcome and significant step towards eventual negotiations among the parties directly involved, which is a necessary step towards a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement," Mr. Clark said. "Mr. Baker has shown admirable persistence and dedication in pursuing this often difficult goal." Mr. Clark welcomed the Israeli Cabinet's early November acceptance of Mr. Baker's proposals and the sustained efforts by Egyptian President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Abdel-Meguid. He noted that Egypt had worked closely with the PLO in developing a positive response and had helped to facilitate arrangements for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. Encouraging all the parties to show maximum flexibility, Mr. Clark added that the prospects for dialogue should not be encumbered by assumptions or preconditions.

Mr. Clark also expressed his satisfaction at the prospect of a tripartite meeting in Washington early next year, to be attended by the Foreign Ministers of Israel, Egypt and the USA. "No one doubts that this will be but one stage in a long and exacting process. The determination and political will already displayed by those involved, however, bodes well for these pressing discussions next year. Canada is ready to assist in any way which would contribute to a successful outcome of the process."