News Release

Secretary of State for External Affairs



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CANADA WELCOMES CAMBODIA ACCORD

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today expressed Canada's full support for the agreement on Cambodia reached yesterday in Jakarta between representatives of the rival Cambodian factions.

"The agreement is one of the breakthroughs needed to end this 12-year-old conflict. It appears that the factions are finally committed to working together to resolve the difficult issues that lay ahead. Although more compromises will be necessary, I believe the Cambodians are moving towards the same goal."

The agreement calls for the formation of a Supreme National Council (SNC), composed of representatives from each of the factions. The SNC will develop peace plans for elaboration by the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and eventually by the United Nations. The Council will represent Cambodian sovereignty and will hold the Cambodian seat at the UN. The factions also accepted in its entirety the recent framework agreement reached by the five Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council. At the conclusion of the talks, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said that he would accept UN supervision of key Cambodian ministries in the period before free and fair elections.

"In the coming weeks, I will be dispatching Ambassador Alan Sullivan to Vietnam, Cambodia and other capitals to determine where further effort is needed. Ambassador Sullivan is co-chairman of the First Committee of the Paris Conference which is responsible for designing the crucial peacekeeping and supervisory arrangements of a settlement."

"The agreement could not have occurred without the impetus provided by the Permanent Five. Their hard work over the past eight months in hammering out a framework document provides further evidence of the capacity of the UN to devise practical ways to resolve difficult world problems," concluded Mr. Clark.

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