



No. 257

November 9, 1990

CANADA PROVIDES OBSERVERS TO GUATEMALA ELECTIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that in response to the invitation of the Government of Guatemala, Canada will provide two observers to the Guatemalan general elections, to be held November 11, 1990.

"These elections are important to the progress of democratic development and national reconciliation in Guatemala," stated Mr. Clark. "Popularly elected civil government is instrumental in the struggle to end the cycle of violence and abuse of human rights that has unfortunately marked Guatemala's history," said the Minister. "Our policy has consistently been to try to strengthen democratic institutions and respect for human rights in the region."

The Canadian observers are Mr. Ron Gould, the Assistant Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, and Mr. Brian Dickson, Canada's Ambassador to Guatemala. They will visit polling stations throughout the country, monitor the conduct of the elections to ensure that they are free and fair, and report their findings to Mr. Clark.

- 30 -

For more information, media representatives may contact:

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