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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VISITS BANGLADESH AND INDIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that he will pay an official visit to Bangladesh February 1-5 and to India February 5-11. Mr. Clark will be accompanied by his Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon. Canadian businessmen with current and prospective interests in Bangladesh and India will also participate in aspects of the program in both countries.

Mr. Clark's visit to these two major South Asian countries less than 14 months after his visit to India and Pakistan in December, 1985 is an indication of the value which Canada attaches to its relations with this dynamic and strategically important region. Canada's relations with these countries embraces a wide range of interests - economic, political and social. Bangladesh represents Canada's largest bilateral aid program while India is both a major trading partner and a target country in the government's trade strategy.

In Bangladesh, Mr. Clark will meet with President Ershad, Foreign Minister Chowdhury and other ministers. He will address a full range of bilateral and multilateral questions during his visit. He will visit a number of Canadian development assistance projects and discuss commercial issues.