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CANADA DELEGATES OBSERVERS TO HONDURAN ELECTIONS

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the Canadian government has accepted an invitation from the Government of Honduras to send official observers to the Presidential election to be held in that country on November 24. Mr. Clark said that he has designated Mr. Ron Gould, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, as chief observer. Mr. Gould will be assisted by an official from the Department of External Affairs and by officers of the Canadian Embassy in Guatemala.

Mr. Clark indicated that the decision to send observers to these elections was consistent with the Canadian government's support for the process of democratization in Central America and for the Contadora peace initiative. Mr. Clark expressed the hope that these elections will ensure a continuation of the democratic process reinstated with the last elections in Honduras.

The Canadian government has been assured that observers will be provided with support facilities to permit full verification of the electoral process. Mr. Clark emphasized the importance of complete freedom for the observers to determine and make known their independent judgement on the fairness of the election and the electoral process.