

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, issued the following statement today on the latest developments concerning the bomb explosion in Rangoon, Burma, on October 9, that claimed the lives of seventeen members of the Government of the Republic of Korea including the Deputy Prime Minister and three other Cabinet Ministers.

"The Government of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma has announced certain conclusions arising out of its investigation into the cause of the bomb explosion in Rangoon on October 9, 1983, which tragically cost the lives of seventeen members of the official party of President Chun Doo Hwan of the Republic of Korea and four citizens of Burma. The main conclusion is that agents of the Government of North Korea planned and perpetrated the bombing incident. The Government of Canada, which neither recognizes nor has relations with North Korea, condemns in the strongest possible terms this atrocious act of terrorism. In the circumstances, the Canadian Government believes that the Government of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma has adopted an appropriate response when such terrorist acts are carried out by a state.

The use of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is entirely unacceptable to the Government and people of Canada. Indeed Canada has been and remains most active with other like minded states in seeking ways in the United Nations and elsewhere to combat the menace of international terrorism. Every state has the duty under international law to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts directed against another state. Therefore it is all the more shocking to learn that in the Rangoon bombing incident the earlier indications that a state is the guilty party now have been confirmed. Canada has warm and friendly relations with the Government and peoples of both Burma and the Republic of Korea and stands ready to associate itself with them and with other nations in considering appropriate measures to ensure that criminal conduct of this nature is not repeated."