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ASSISTANCE FOR NICARAGUA ELECTIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, said today that Canada is demonstrating its support for the February 1990 elections in Nicaragua by providing approximately \$700,000 worth of materials and technical assistance to the Nicaraguan Electoral Commission.

"The Canadian Government's contribution to the development of democratic institutions in Nicaragua is very much related to Canada's longstanding support for the peace process in Central America," said Mr. Clark. He reiterated his belief that the Nicaraguan election offers new hope for achieving real democratisation and peace within that country.

Elections Canada will deliver this assistance in consultation with the Electoral Commission. Canada's aid includes funding for a voter education campaign, Canadian newsprint for staff training manuals and cardboard for making ballot boxes. The Costa Rica-based Centre for Electoral Assistance and Promotion (CAPEL) will help organise the education campaign.

"An informed voter is our best contribution towards the building of democracy," declared Mr. Clark in announcing the Canadian electoral assistance package.

- 30 -

Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada