

Mr. Clark urged the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that food and medicine are delivered to the north for distribution by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He called on the LTTE not to hinder these humanitarian efforts to safeguard the welfare of civilians.

"We are witnessing a very serious situation in humanitarian terms in northern Sri Lanka. Every effort must be made to ensure that innocent civilians in the north do not become victims of the current conflict."

Mr. Clark called on both sides in the conflict to return to negotiations as the most appropriate means to resolve the dispute and to ensure the safety of civilians in the north and east. Canada, along with the European Community and Nordic countries, and the United States and Australia, made a *démarche* to the Sri Lankan delegation at the Consultative Group meeting on Development Assistance chaired by the World Bank in Paris on October 25.

For more information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874