

PRESS RELEASE



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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today announced that three Cobalt Therapy Beam Units and two replacement sources have been contributed through the External Aid Office to India under Canada's Colombo Plan Program to assist India in its fight against cancer.

The contribution of these Canadian manufactured Cobalt Units to India is in line with Canada's increased medical assistance to developing countries and with Canadian interest in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. A necessary precondition to employing such units is that radiation-proof buildings exist and that trained technical staff is available. Canada has consequently been encouraging projects in the medical and other fields where its donations of capital equipment are coordinated with its technical assistance program so as to ensure that sufficiently qualified personnel are available to operate and maintain the equipment donated. For instance, six persons from India have been trained in Canada on radiology and related fields.

The Cobalt Units have been assigned to hospitals in Jaipur, Calcutta and Bombay where the required type of accommodation exists to house the Units and where trained technical staff is available to operate this world-renowned therapeutic instrument. The replacement sources are for Canadian therapy units now in service in hospitals at Vellore and Ludhiana. The shipment is to take place shortly.