

PRESS RELEASE



COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CANADIAN DECLARATION CONCERNING CAMBODIAN FRONTIERS

The Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the Canadian Government has informed the Royal Cambodian Government that Canada recognizes and respects the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within the limits of its present frontiers.

The Canadian declaration, made in keeping with the principles of the United Nations Charter, has been issued to help meet the Cambodian Government's interest in obtaining international reassurances for its territorial integrity. The declaration was transmitted on September 2, 1968, to the Cambodian Head of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, by Mr. R. V. Gorham, the Canadian Commissioner to the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Cambodia.

The declaration states that:

"It is a fundamental tenet of Canada's foreign policy that international relations must be conducted on the basis of the principles of the United Nations Charter, including in particular the obligations to settle international disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. In accordance with these principles Canada declares that it recognizes and respects the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within the limits of its present frontiers".

In issuing a declaration of this character as other states have done, the Canadian Government hopes that it may contribute to alleviating some of the tensions in the area. It is fully in keeping with Canada's desire to develop further the cordial relations with Cambodia which have developed over the years through our membership on the ICSC in Cambodia and the United Nations and through our Colombo Plan aid programmes in Cambodia.