



communiqué

N°: 95
No.:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 5, 1983

SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, expressed the concern of the Canadian Government over the recent wave of violence in Sri Lanka.

Mr. MacEachen noted that the Canadian Government and people, particularly those with relatives and friends in Sri Lanka, have followed events with sorrow. He said that Canadians were distressed by the loss of life and destruction of property resulting from the outbreak of inter-communal violence. He pointed out that Sri Lanka is a Commonwealth partner with which Canada enjoys excellent and long-standing bilateral relations, as exemplified by his own visit to Sri Lanka last month. He expressed the hope that the Sri Lanka government would be successful in its efforts aimed at the restoration of order - an essential prerequisite for the tasks of reconstruction and national reconciliation, which will preoccupy the Government of Sri Lanka for the weeks and months ahead.

Mr. MacEachen stated that if an appeal for assistance to Sri Lanka were launched by an appropriate internationally recognized humanitarian organization, sympathetic consideration would be given to such a request for assistance from Canada.

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