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BEATTY WELCOMES NEW GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty today welcomed the new government of Cambodia and the successful culmination of a two-year peace process that began with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords in 1991. The Minister also said that Canada wishes to establish diplomatic relations with Cambodia as soon as possible.

"Cambodia has shown itself to be democratic and now has a government that reflects the will of its people," said Mr. Beatty. "I look forward to the development of closer economic, social and diplomatic ties with the newly formed government of this country."

The Minister praised the bravery and stamina of the Cambodian people, who have tirelessly shown their desire for peace and democracy in spite of much violence and coercion. He said that Canada would participate in international efforts to rebuild the country and help strengthen its democratic institutions.

Mr. Beatty also commended the work of some 300 Canadian peacekeepers, both civilian and military, who took part in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), supervising the May 1993 elections and working to protect human rights. The Minister noted that with the new government in place, UNTAC's mission is almost complete and troops are being withdrawn.

"The triumph of peace and democracy in Cambodia is due in part to the work and resolve of Canadians. We can be very proud of the role we have played," added the Minister.

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