

News Release

November 2, 1995

No. 202

SECRETARY OF STATE CHAN EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER CONTINUED CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan, on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet, today expressed Canada's concern over the continued conflict in Sri Lanka. Mr. Chan's comments, made in the House of Commons during Question Period, came in the wake of a sustained military offensive by government forces in northern Sri Lanka.

"As I told the President of Sri Lanka when I was there this summer, Canada was deeply disappointed at the unilateral resumption of hostilities in Sri Lanka by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on April 19 after 14 weeks of peace," said Mr. Chan. "We are dismayed at the subsequent continuation and escalation of the conflict in Sri Lanka, and with the mounting loss of life. In particular, Canadians are shocked by the slaughter of over 120 innocent civilians, attributed to the LTTE, in the past several days."

Mr. Chan noted that Canada does not consider that there can be a military solution to the conflict in Sri Lanka. He urged an end to hostilities and the commencement of negotiations involving both the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka on a peaceful resolution to this long-standing ethnic confrontation.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada