

News Release

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Communiqué

Secrétaire
d'État aux
Affaires
extérieures

No. 242

October 22, 1990.

HONOURABLE RONALD G. ATKEY TO OBSERVE PAKISTAN TRIBUNALS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, has announced that the Honourable Ronald G. Atkey has proceeded to Pakistan to observe tribunal hearings on charges laid against former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The tribunal hearings in Lahore and Karachi have been initiated by the interim Government of Pakistan to hear charges of corruption brought against the former Prime Minister, and members of her family and Cabinet. Her supporters have alleged that the hearings could serve to hinder her campaign for re-election. In order to demonstrate that the tribunals accord due process to the accused, the interim Government has agreed to accept tribunal observers.

Reflecting the friendly long-standing relationship between Canada and Pakistan, and the importance which the Government of Canada attaches to the fairness and openness of the tribunal hearings and to the election process in general, Canada is providing a tribunal observer. Mr. Atkey, an expert on constitutional law, departed for Pakistan at the end of last week. He will remain in Pakistan as long as appropriate and will provide a report of his findings to the Government of Canada.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives should contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874

Affaires extérieures et
Commerce extérieur Canada

External Affairs and
International Trade Canada

Canada