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CANADA ANNOUNCES NEW AID RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE PHILIPPINES

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, informed Her Excellency President Aquino today that Canada fully supports and admires the efforts of her government to build a new order in the Philippines. Mr. Clark is visiting the Philippines for discussions with the President, Vice-President Laurel, Finance Minister Ongpin and the Governor of Negros Occidental Province, Daniel Lacson.

Mr. Clark met with President Aquino this morning at Malacanang Guest House. He told her that Canada is determined to assist the Philippines in concrete, practical ways. Canada is prepared to begin a new aid relationship immediately, Mr. Clark said.

Mr. Clark said that he intends to make the Philippines a priority country for Canadian aid. This means the implementation of a range of Canadian assistance activities over the long term.

Mr. Clark also informed the President that the Canadian International Development Agency will provide the Negros Rehabilitation and Development Fund with the contribution of \$10 million (Canadian) over the next three years. This grant fund will be used to help the rural poor in the provinces of Negros Occidental and Negros Del Norte who have been displaced because of the slump in sugar prices. It will help the area to diversify away from sugar production.

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