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HUMAN RIGHTS -- DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA (CAMBODIA)

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, today announced that Canada has made a detailed submission on the human rights situation in Democratic Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia) to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR).

The Canadian submission was delivered to the Sub-Commission of the UNCHR in Geneva by R. H. Jay, Canada's Permanent Representative to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva.

Evidence of violations of human rights in Democratic Kampuchea has been mounting in recent months as the flow of refugees from that country increases.

"This evidence constitutes a strong *prima facie* case for an urgent investigation of the situation with respect to human rights in Democratic Kampuchea," the Canadian submission to the CHR states.

The submission is based on a series of thirty voluntary interviews with individual Kampuchean refugees carried out by the Canadian Embassy in Thailand in August. Many of the refugees interviewed had recently left Democratic Kampuchea.

Testimony taken from the refugees reveals a wide range of violations of human rights. These include arbitrary arrest, detention and execution, cruel and/or unusual punishment, religious suppression, and denial of free expression other than that which is authorized by the state.

The testimony obtained from the refugees corroborates other evidence already revealed of violations of human rights in Democratic Kampuchea. It points to the unavoidable conclusion that gross and persistent violations of human rights have occurred in that country.

The Canadian submission follows two earlier Canadian submissions to the CHR on Democratic Kampuchea. These began with the submission on May 2 of the text of an April 7 House of Commons motion condemning human rights violations in that country. This text was also submitted to the Government of Democratic Kampuchea through the Cambodian Embassy in Peking. The second submission was made on July 14.