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CANADA INCREASES CAMBODIAN PEACEKEEPING CONTINGENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Marcel Masse, today announced that in response to a request from the UN Secretary-General, Canada has increased its contribution to the UN Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) from 109 to some 215 troops.

"The United Nations is helping Cambodia through a very delicate moment in its history, and Canada is doing everything it can to support that process," said Mrs. McDougall.

"UNTAC is one of the largest peacekeeping efforts ever and our Armed Forces have the expertise needed to help it succeed," said Mr. Masse.

The Ministers also applauded the recent decision in the Japanese Diet to permit Japan's participation in UN peacekeeping efforts, and expressed the hope that Japan would also decide to contribute to UNTAC.

The Canadian contingent will include a group of engineers, a transportation logistics unit, a naval contingent and other headquarters and logistics personnel. Canada is also providing 60 vehicles, including trucks and ambulances.

UNTAC is made up of military and civilian personnel who, among other tasks, supervise the cease-fire, conduct elections, monitor human rights and repatriate refugees.

- 30 -

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