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MINISTER CLARK TABLES REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON ASIA PACIFIC FOUNDATION OF CANADA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today tabled a Report to Parliament on the first four years of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. The Foundation was established by unanimous Act of Parliament in 1984 to foster awareness between Canada and the nations of Asia Pacific.

Asia Pacific has become the largest market for Canada's exports outside of the United States and the largest source of new Canadians. "It is clear to me that Asia Pacific represents a new and increasingly important focus of Canada's economic and social future", Mr. Clark said. He added, "The Asia Pacific Foundation is playing a major role in improving our ability to understand the cultural, social and economic traditions and impulses which make this region one of the most dynamic and influential in the world."

Under the enabling Act, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Board of Directors were asked to provide an evaluation of the Foundation's activities after its fourth anniversary. This report has been prepared to fulfill this obligation. It recommends that the Foundation continue operating under the original mandate given by Parliament and includes several recommendations to ensure the financial viability of the Foundation.

The Asia Pacific Foundation is located in Vancouver, British Columbia.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Susan Phillips
Asia Pacific Foundation
(604) 684-5986

Robert Peck
Media Relations Office
Department of External Affairs
(613) 995-1874

Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

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