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Media representatives are advised that Dr. Rey Pagtakhan, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific), will visit Bangkok, Thailand, and Manila, Philippines, from December 16 to 23, 2001.

Between December 16 and 18 Dr. Pagtakhan will be in Bangkok to meet with General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Deputy Prime Minister, Defence Minister and Acting Prime Minister of Thailand as well as Khun Apinan Pavanarit, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During his visit Dr. Pagtakhan will also be meeting with Canadian business representatives and attending functions on human development and education.

In Manila from December 19 to 21, Dr. Pagtakhan will call on Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines and Teofisto Guingona, Vice President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs. He will also meet with Jose Isidro N. Camacho, Secretary, Department of Finance, as well as the Speakers of the Philippine Senate and House of Representatives, former President Fidel Ramos and senior representatives of the Asian Development Bank.

A media availability is scheduled as follows:

Manila, Philippines

Date:

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Time:

TBC

Location:

Malacanang Palace,

Pasig, Rizal (TBC)

For more information, please contact:

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