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JOE CLARK ANNOUNCES ASSISTANCE TO BULGARIAN ELECTIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canada has sent 10 tonnes of computer paper to the Bulgarian Election Commission for use during national elections for a Constituent Assembly on June 10 and 17, 1990.

"Canadians want to encourage the development of the new democratic processes in Eastern Europe," stated Mr. Clark. "This is an effective way to assist the Bulgarians with their electoral process."

The Canadian contribution responds to a need expressed by Bulgarian elections officials to a senior official of Elections Canada who recently participated in an international mission to Bulgaria to advise on electoral processes. The paper, a contribution worth \$36,000 including shipping, has been shipped to Sofia in time for the printing of voters lists.

Canada has sent a delegation, including three members of parliament and a senior official from Elections Canada, to observe the first round of elections on June 10. The delegation consists of: Mr. Guy Arseneault, M.P., Ms. Dawn Black, M.P., Mr. Gabriel Larrivée, M.P., and Jean-Pierre Kingsley, Chief Electoral Officer of Canada.

"These elections are an important first step in Bulgaria's move towards a democratic, pluralist political system. The elected assembly will have to meet the challenge of entrenching these principles into an effective constitutional document," concluded Mr. Clark.