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McDOUGALL ISSUES STATEMENT ON CAMBODIA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today released the text of a statement on Cambodia, agreed to by the signatory states to the Paris Agreements. Canada co-chaired the Paris Peace Conference's First Committee on Peacekeeping, and is a party to the October 1991 Paris Agreements, which set out a comprehensive political settlement to the Cambodian conflict.

"This statement, one month before the United Nations-supervised elections in Cambodia, underscores world outrage at the cowardly murders of those who are working for peace in that country," Mrs. McDougall said. "In my visit to Cambodia earlier this month, I was impressed by the dedication and courage of both UN workers, including Canadian peacekeepers, and of the representatives of non-governmental groups. Canada fully supports this statement and fully supports the work of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]."

Statement on Cambodia

At the initiative of the Co-chairmen of the Paris Conference on Cambodia, the representatives of the Signatory States of the Agreements on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict declare their firm determination to support the electoral process under way in that country. In particular, they support unreservedly the decision of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) that the elections shall be held on 23/27 May 1993. They call on UNTAC to continue to make every effort to create and maintain a neutral political environment conducive to the holding of free and fair elections and support UNTAC's endeavours in this respect. For this purpose, the signatories pledge their full support to the special representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, in implementing the Paris Agreements, in co-operation with the SNC. They associate themselves with the Security Council Resolution 810.

The signatory states of the Paris Agreements vigorously condemn all acts of violence committed in Cambodia whoever the perpetrators and the victims may be. In particular, they express their indignation at the cowardly assassinations committed against the civilian and military personnel of UNTAC who came to Cambodia on a mission of peace. They demand that all Cambodian parties take measures necessary to end all acts of violence and to ensure particularly the safety of all UNTAC civilian and military personnel.

They call upon all Cambodian parties to abide by their commitment under the Paris Agreements to respect the results of the elections once they are certified free and fair by the United Nations. They express their readiness to support fully the constituent assembly and the process of drawing up the constitution and establishing a new government for all Cambodia.

The signatory states of the Paris Agreements express their support for and confidence in His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State and President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, for his crucial role in carrying out the peace process. They pledge their full support for the determination of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the people of Cambodia to proceed with the election as the means to achieve a comprehensive political settlement and national reconciliation, and their vital role in seeking the assistance and active engagement of the international community in post-election reconstruction and peace building in Cambodia. Finally, the signatory states reiterate their full commitment to implement the Paris Agreements.

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