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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
VISITS INDIA AND PAKISTAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that he will pay an official visit to India December 16-19, and to Pakistan December 19-22. Mr. Clark will be accompanied by Members of Parliament representing the three political parties. Canadian businessmen with current and prospective interests in India and Pakistan will also participate in aspects of the program in both countries.

Canada's relations with India and Pakistan go back to the late 1940's when those two countries became independent. Their strategic importance and the international stature of their leaders made them a most important focus for Canada's expanding foreign policy in the post-war era. Today, Canada's relationships with these countries represent key components in the increased attention being devoted by the government to the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Clark will address a full range of multilateral and bilateral questions during his visit to India. He will call upon President Zainal Singh and hold discussions with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Foreign Minister Bhagat and other ministers. He will visit a number of Canadian development assistance projects and discuss a variety of commercial issues.

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In Pakistan, Mr. Clark will meet President Zia-ul-Haq and Prime Minister Junejo to discuss international political and economic developments. He will visit a camp for Afghan refugees, who receive Canadian food aid and humanitarian assistance, and discuss the overall direction of Canada's development assistance program. He will also examine the scope for Canadian participation in Pakistan's energy, telecommunications and industrial sectors where a number of Canadian companies have been active.

Departmental officials will provide further details at an 11:30 A.M. December 5 briefing in the auditorium of the National Press Centre. In the meantime, Mr. H.G. Pardy, telephone 992-6807, would be pleased to respond to questions.