



communiqué

N°:
No.: 022

February 3, 1987.

CIDA TO UNDERTAKE STUDY OF DISPATCH CENTRE IN BANGLADESH

DHAKA, BANGLADESH--The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark announced today that Canada will undertake a feasibility study of the means to upgrade the Central Load Dispatch Centre of the Bangladesh Power Development Board.

The \$1 million study, to be financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will establish engineering requirements and costs for upgrading the centre and improving the associated telecommunications system.

"During the past decade, Bangladesh has increased its generating and transmission capacity dramatically, and an equally dynamic expansion is expected over the next few years," Mr. Clark said.

"Maximum demand now exceeds 1,000 megawatts, and most principal power stations now are integrated into the national grid."

CIDA contributed \$10 million to the construction of the Central Load Dispatch Centre, which was commissioned at Siddhirganj last year. It has increased the reliability of the system by reducing power outages and saved fuel by setting power flow levels. Inadequate telecommunications facilities, however, hamper the optimum operation of the dispatch centre.

.../2

Canada has provided more than \$1 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since it gained independence in 1971. Assistance has included food aid, railway improvements, energy, agriculture and rural development and flood control and irrigation systems.

"Canada has the expertise and the capacity to provide the help with electric power development that Bangladesh needs," Mr. Clark said. "We have been a close partner in development cooperation in the past and we are committed to continuing to develop strong cultural, economic and commercial relations in the future."