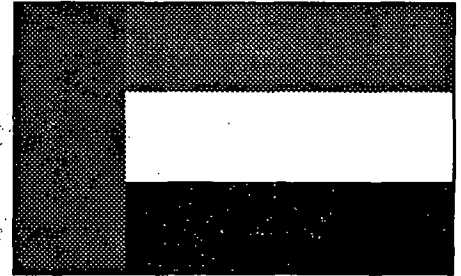


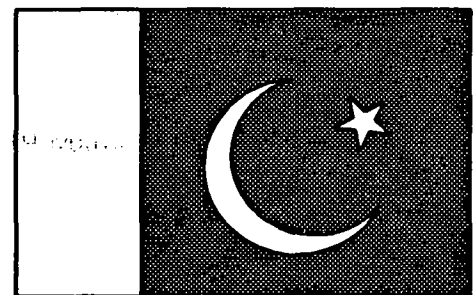
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**VISIT OF
GOVERNOR GENERAL
ROMÉO LEBLANC
TO THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES,
INDIA AND PAKISTAN**



**MEDIA BRIEFERS'
BOOK**

MARCH 22 - APRIL 7, 1998



Visit of Governor General Roméo LeBlanc to the United Arab Emirates, India and Pakistan

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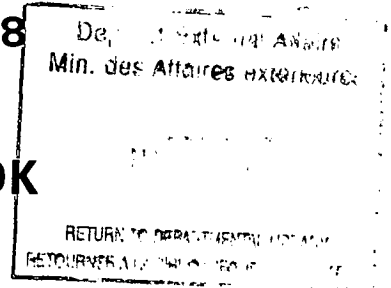


Table of Contents

1.	General Questions	3
	Visit – Purpose and Cost	3-4
	Differences between India and Pakistan	5
	Human Rights	6
	Trade Measures vs. Engagement	6
	Child Labour	7
	Impact of Asian Financial Crisis in South Asia	9
	Military Exports	10-11
	Review of Foreign Asset Reporting	12
	Sustainable Development	13
2.	United Arab Emirates	14
	Main Messages	14
	Death Sentence	15
	UAE – Canada Relations	16-17
	Democracy and Human Rights	18
	Middle East Issues	19-20
3.	India	21
	Main Messages	21
	APEC	22
	CIDA Projects	23-24
	Education Centres	25
	Human Rights	26
	Child Labour	27
	Child Development Fund	28
	Human Rights and ODA	29
	Kashmir and Human Rights	30

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	Military Exports	31
	Nuclear Non-Proliferation/Missiles	32
	Nuclear Safety Cooperation	33
	Punjab and Human Rights	34
	Punjab and Trade	35
	Punjab Office	36-38
	Team Canada Results	39
	Terrorism	40
	Trade Balance	41
	Business Delegation Goals	42
4.	Pakistan	43
	Main Messages	43
	CIDA Projects	44
	Education Centres	45
	Human Rights	46
	Violations	46
	Child Labour	47
	Women's Rights	48
	Military Exports	49
	Nuclear Safety Cooperation	50
	Team Canada Results	51

Visit – Purpose and Cost

QUESTION

What is the purpose of the Governor General's visit to the United Arab Emirates, India and Pakistan and how much will it cost taxpayers?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The main purposes of the Governor General's visit are the following:
 - To celebrate 50 years of independence for India and Pakistan, and to reinforce further our relations with the UAE, India and Pakistan.
 - To highlight the human, cultural and academic ties between our countries as represented by the 600,000 Canadians who trace their ancestry to India or Pakistan
- To promote increased trade and investment linkages with the UAE, India and Pakistan.

Responsive Only

- The estimated total cost for the visit is \$700,000.

QUESTION

Is it appropriate for the Governor General to make a visit to India when there are uncertainties with the formation of the new government?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- It is expected that a new government will be formed by 19 March. The creation of a new Government is of course important for the visit inasmuch as the Governor General hopes to meet the new Prime Minister, and Minister Dhaliwal plans to meet with selected ministers. The objectives of the visit, however, build on the human, cultural, academic and economic ties, all of which can be pursued independently.

Visit - Purpose and Cost

QUESTION

Why is Finance Minister Dhaliwal going to India and SSAP Raymond Chan going to Pakistan?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Minister Dhaliwal is accompanying the Governor General to the UAE and India, while Secretary of State Raymond Chan is accompanying the Governor General to Pakistan. They will both represent the Canadian Government and support the Governor General in his role of Head of State.
- The ministers will also be leading trade delegations to promote Canadian business interest in the countries they are visiting and to build on the opportunities resulting from our strengthened bilateral relations with these countries.

Differences between India and Pakistan

QUESTION

What is Canada doing to convince help India and Pakistan to resolve their differences?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canada's concerns with the regional security situation in South Asia, including with respect to Kashmir, remain acute.
- At this time, Canada considers that a lasting resolution of this issue can only be achieved through a sustained bilateral dialogue; accordingly, we welcome the recent discussions between both India and Pakistan in this regard. We urge both countries to pursue this dialogue.

Human Rights — Trade Measures vs. Engagement

QUESTION

Why not impose trade measures on these countries until they clean up their act?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Trade sanctions are most effective when they are backed by the international community.
- In many cases, unilateral trade measures in response to human rights violations do not have the desired influence on the human rights situation and moreover, can undermine the ability to influence a government's attitude on human rights. When possible we prefer to explore other means for effective influence through engagement.
- Poverty and lack of access to basic education are among the most significant contributors to human rights abuses, particularly for women and children. By imposing trade sanctions on these countries we may deny them the benefits that can accrue from economic development, including the strengthening of democratic mechanisms to protect things like human rights.

Human Rights — Child Labour

QUESTION

What is Canada's position on trading with countries that abuse child labour? Why won't Canada adopt measures similar to those recently adopted in the United States banning imports of goods made by forced or indentured labour?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The economic exploitation of children is a fundamental violation of international human rights. Canada is working with other governments, the private sector and international institutions and NGOs to change these conditions.
- Child labour is a complex problem rooted mainly in extreme poverty. Easy solutions such as trade enforcement measures can do more harm than good to those people we want to help. Simply putting children out of work, which could very well be the effect of punitive measures such as limiting the importation of certain products made with child labour, risks displacing these workers into even worse situations, such as prostitution. It also ignores the plight of the vast majority of child labourers in developing countries who are employed in the domestic and informal sectors.
- This is why Canada approaches child labour issues through cooperation based on reducing poverty and meeting human needs. When family income rises and poverty is alleviated, children no longer need to work to provide income for the family.
- The Canadian government is committed to providing 25 per cent of Canada's international development assistance to basic human needs. CIDA had allocated 35.5 per cent of its budget to this priority in 1997.
- Canada is looking for ways to translate public concern about abusive child labour practices into actions that help improve the lives of children who are otherwise deprived of the right to education and a secure childhood.
- In April 1997, Minister Axworthy announced the creation of the Child Labour Challenge Fund to support Canadian private sector initiatives aimed at addressing exploitive child labour internationally through projects, such as the development of voluntary guidelines, codes of conduct and consumer labelling practices.

- We are also working hard in the International Labour Organization (ILO) to develop a new convention on eliminating the most hazardous forms of child labour. This convention is expected to be adopted in 1999. Last year, Canada made a contribution of \$700,000 to the ILO's International Program for the Elimination of Child Labour.
- Canada participated in the Amsterdam Child Labour Conference in February 1997, and Minister Marleau represented Canada at a similar conference in Oslo in October.

Impact of Asian Financial Crisis in South Asia

QUESTION

How is the financial crisis affecting the countries of South Asia and how is this situation having an impact on Canadian interests?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- So far, the countries of South Asia have been relatively unaffected by the currency crisis in Southeast Asia.
- A cautious approach to trade and investment liberalization has shielded these countries from large fluctuations in their currencies.
- The economic fundamentals in the South Asian countries such as India have also been sound. For example, India's current account deficit is less than 2%, it has foreign exchange reserves of over \$30 billion and very little speculative foreign investment. The banking system is solid. India has allowed its overvalued currency to devalue by 10% over the past six months.
- Given the strong fundamentals, the countries of South Asia should be in good shape to face uncertainties caused by the crisis in the years ahead. Sectors that compete head-to-head against competitors in Southeast Asia, such as textiles, may come under increasing pressure. In addition, anticipated investment from Southeast Asia will be reduced.
- The "1996 Team Canada" mission to the region laid the groundwork for increases in Canadian exports and investment in the region. Canadian companies are counting on continued trade and investment liberalization as they increase their activities in the region. Canadian companies' primary interest in South Asia is infrastructure development.
- Infrastructure modernization and expansion are major objectives for countries in the region. Plans for the opening of these sectors to foreign participation remain unchanged. This is despite pressure on these countries to adopt a "go slow" approach to liberalization because of the currency crisis.

Military Exports

QUESTION

What is Canada's position on the export of military goods? How can the Canadian government be sure that sales are not affecting "human rights or regional conflicts"?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Goods specifically designed or modified for military use require an export permit from the imminent threat of hostilities, or countries, whose governments have a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens, unless it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable risk that the goods might be used against the civilian population.
- Canadian military exports, to a great extent, consist of support systems such as simulators, radars, and computer systems or a wide variety of spare parts.
- Applications for export permits for military goods are subject to an extensive process of analysis and consultation, generally involving the Department of National Defence and Industry Canada as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Within DFAIT, consultations include: the respective geographical divisions; Human Rights Division; Regional Security and Peacekeeping Division; and Sectoral Trade Development Division. The purpose of the consultation is to judge compliance with the current policy.
- The approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs is required for the export of all offensive military goods and technology, unless they are destined to a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally or to a small group of specified like-minded countries. In the case of non-offensive military goods and technology, the Minister is also consulted, if any of the above-mentioned criteria apply.

Responsive only: If asked what we export specifically

- Information on specific export permits is kept confidential due to its commercial sensitivity. Releasing such information could adversely affect the companies involved, and for this reason the Department has assured confidentiality to applicants. The absence of such assurances could prevent the Department from obtaining commercial information that it needs to properly assess and render decisions on permit applications.

Review of Foreign Asset Reporting

QUESTION

Some Asian Canadians have substantial assets abroad. If they are residents of Canada, do they have to disclose this information for taxation purposes?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canadian residents have to report their world income, including income earned in tax haven countries. To realize its objective of enhancing compliance with the law, the government introduced a requirement to report foreign assets over \$100,000.
- A significant number of taxpayers, as well as the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, have expressed concerns about this requirement. These concerns went beyond the issue of taxation, and they included privacy issues as well as the economic impact of the new rules.
- As a result, on September 26, 1997, the ministers of National Revenue and Finance asked the Auditor General to undertake a review of these proposed income tax matters.
- This new foreign reporting requirement will be delayed until 1999 pending the outcome of the Auditor General's review. The report of the Auditor General will be completed by the end of May and is expected to be presented to Parliament in June 1998.

Sustainable Development

QUESTION

What is Canada doing to promote sustainable development in India and Pakistan?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canada has been involved in development cooperation for over 40 years in these countries.
- Encouraging more equitable and sustainable development is important to Canadians. Sustainable development is a key to greater security, prosperity, respect for human rights and the environmental integrity of the planet. Our development cooperation programs in the region illustrate that commitment every single day.
- Canadian development cooperation programming supports projects that range from reducing poverty to helping governments improve their economic and social policy frameworks, to helping Asian private sectors access Canadian expertise and technology.
- They also support the greater participation of women in development; the provision of environmentally sound infrastructure services; better governance and the protection of the environment — in other words, promoting Canadian values abroad.
- In India, for example, Canada has helped plant more than 190 million trees in wasteland areas and supported agro-forestry projects which also help increase incomes for families in rural areas.
- In Pakistan, Canada has supported the development and implementation of its National Conservation Strategy.

United Arab Emirates – Main Messages

- CANADA IS PLEASED TO SALUTE THE EXCEPTIONAL PROGRESS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE UAE SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE IN 1971 UNDER THE ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT SHEIKH ZAYED BIN SULTAN.
- SINCE THE RE-OPENING OF THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATION OFFICE IN THE UAE IN 1991, BILATERAL RELATIONS HAVE EXPANDED AT A FAST PACE.
- CANADA IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING REGIONAL SECURITY IN THE GULF AND TO PLAYING A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS.

UAE – Death Sentence

QUESTION

There have been reports in the press that a Canadian Citizen has been sentenced to death in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Is the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade aware of this case and if so, what action is it taking?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade was unofficially informed, in December of 1996, by the mother of the subject, that her son had been arrested in the spring of 1996.
- Since having been made aware of this case, in December 1996, Consular officials in Dubai have been providing this Canadian and his family appropriate consular assistance and will continue to do so.
- Consular officials have also attended the court hearing and visited with the subject right after the death sentence was pronounced. Subsequently, they have also met with the mother of the subject and his lawyer.
- Efforts by the Canadian government on behalf of the subjects family include interventions by our Ambassador with the Dubai Ruler's Office to seek the subject's deportation, discussions between our Consul General with the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Foreign Affairs Department of the Ruler's Court to relay Canada's concern regarding this case. Furthermore, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has personally written to His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Minister of Defense for The United Arab Emirates, appealing the severity of the sentence on humanitarian grounds.
- The Government of Canada wishes that in the best interest of this individual and the excellent political and commercial relations that exists between our two countries, this case can be resolved in a timely and satisfactory manner.

UAE – Canada Relations

QUESTION

How would you describe the present state of Canada / UAE relations? If they are so good, why have there been practically no UAE visit of Ministerial or higher level to Canada in recent memory?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The relationship between the two countries is excellent. While there have been fewer than desired political visits in recent years, we hope to arrange ministerial meetings at a mutually convenient time in the near future. However, there is a regular exchange of dialogue between our embassy and UAE government officials.
- Since we re-opened our representation in the UAE in 1991, Canadian exports to the UAE have almost quadrupled in four years. In 1997, the UAE was Canada's fifth largest export market in the Middle East and North African area, behind much larger countries (Iran, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Israel).
- Private sector links are flourishing. There are regular exchanges between the Chambers of Commerce of the UAE and the Canada Arab Business Council, who will be conducting a mission to the UAE at the time of the Governor General's visit.
- The re-opening of our Embassy in Abu Dhabi in 1996 has helped in making Canada better known in the UAE. We welcome the opening of a UAE Embassy in Canada as a step towards strengthening our relations.
- High-level visitors from the UAE are always welcome in Canada. We understand that the Minister of Agriculture is interested in a visit to Canada.
- Canada and the UAE cooperate at various levels. Among others, Revenue Canada (Customs) has a collaborative agreement with the UAE authorities in Dubai. In addition, opportunities for increasing the number of students from the UAE at Canadian institutions of higher learning has led to the opening of an Educational Resource Centre at the Embassy, on a pilot basis, last fall.

Responsive only

- Preliminary discussions have recently taken place regarding the conclusion of a Foreign Investment Protection Agreement and a Double Taxation Agreement. We hope negotiations will proceed and lead to a successful conclusion.
- It is true that Canada has offered to exempt UAE nationals from having to obtain a Canadian visitor visa to visit Canada. Talks are proceeding and are expected to conclude in the very near future.
- This would not apply to expatriate residents of the UAE or to UAE nationals wishing to work or study in Canada.

UAE – Democracy and Human Rights

QUESTION

Why is the Governor General of Canada visiting a country where no elections are held and where there is no trace of Parliament or representative government?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The Governor General is paying his respects to a senior Arab statesman who guided his people on a path of rapid development since the independence of the UAE in 1971.
- As two federations, Canada and the UAE have some common elements. Canada is always ready to share with the UAE its and methods of government and public administration.
- Sheikh Zayed has been named 1993 Personality of the Year for Environment and Development.
- Sheikh Zayed has received praise by the UAE population for his fair social programs.
- He is an Arab leader who has consistently advocated peaceful solutions to regional problems.

Responsive only

- The visit to the UAE originates from a technical stop-over on the way to India. Under the circumstances, it was a show of courtesy to seek a meeting with the Head of State of a friendly country.

UAE - Middle East Issues

QUESTION

Isn't Canada and the UAE at odds on several Middle East issues?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- On the contrary, Canada and the UAE have cooperated on many occasions.
- Canada and the UAE fought side by side to repel the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1991.
- Canada and the UAE have both upheld the United Nations sanctions against the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein. A Canadian vessel has been taking part in the Multinational Interception Force every year for that purpose and has been calling on UAE ports.
- The military frigate HMCS Toronto is an element of Canada's contribution to the coalition assembled in the Gulf last month to force Iraq to comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions and a testament to the mutual understanding between Canada and the UAE on the matter of Iraq. It will be in the port of Abu Dhabi at the time of His Excellency the Governor General's visit.
- Since a damaging oil spill earlier this year, the UAE authorities have issued orders tightening regulations against the use of UAE territorial waters by barges carrying Iraqi fuel in contravention of UNSC resolutions.
- It is understandable that the Arab population of the UAE, sympathizes with the suffering of its Arab neighbours in Iraq under Saddam Hussein's regime. The UAE has contributed relief items to the Iraqi people during the latest crisis.
- Canada itself has contributed in excess of CAD 35 million in humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi population since the 1991 Gulf War.
- It is also understandable that the UAE government and population feels strongly about the plight of the Palestinian people. Both Canada and the UAE have been partners in the multilateral track of the Middle East Peace Process.

- There are currently talks at the official level to explore possibilities for UAE/Canada collaboration on assistance projects for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and in Lebanon.
- The UAE chose not to take part in the IVth Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference held in neighbouring Qatar (Doha) in November 1997 in protest against the policies of the Natanyahu Government. Canada did participate and will continue to carry the message that the multilateral process is the only effective framework we have for international coordination of support for the peace process. Thus the need to preserve it.
- The present stalemate in the peace process carries with it a growing risk of tension and violence in the region. We need to send a consistent message to all parties that dialogue and negotiation is the only way forward. They should seek measures to raise the level of trust.

India – Main Messages

- CANADA IS PLEASED TO COMMEMORATE INDIA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE WITH THIS FIRST VISIT OF A CANADIAN HEAD OF STATE.
- CANADA WELCOMES ITS RENEWED AND GROWING PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIA, WHICH WAS BORNE OUT OF THE 1996 TEAM CANADA MISSION AND IS EVIDENCED FURTHER BY THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE.
- OUR STRONG GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TIES, OUR INCREASED TRADE RELATIONS AND JOINT COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES, AND CANADA'S VIBRANT INDO-CANADIAN COMMUNITY PROMISE EVEN GREATER COOPERATION AT THE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL LEVELS.
- CANADA RECOGNIZES THAT STIMULATING BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF JOBS AND PROSPERITY IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES.

India - APEC

QUESTION

Why didn't Canada support India's membership in APEC?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The APEC meetings in Vancouver last year provided a timely opportunity to discuss issues such as the financial situation in Asia as well as advancing APEC's agenda on a number of fronts. Apec members agreed to further liberalize trade, even in this challenging period. This is exemplified in the successful launch of voluntary liberalization initiatives in fifteen sectors, with nine to begin immediately.
- As past-chair of APEC, Canada will continue its efforts to keep other countries outside of APEC informed of relevant APEC developments and follow-up to 1997.
- Recognition of India's emergence as an economic partner and its important role in the Asia-Pacific region continues to grow. APEC will continue to be an open forum, and has an established set of guidelines for non-member participation as guests in working group activities. Canada will continue to support India's participation in the APEC working groups to which it has requested entry.

India - CIDA Projects

Canada's development program with India:

- promotes economic and social policy reform
- supports environmentally sound development
- supports private sector development

Canada is promoting economic and social policy reform through a broad range of CIDA-supported projects and programs. For instance:

- Collaborative research between India and Canada has addressed a number of key areas such as regional economic development, fiscal federalism and macro-economic modelling
- Canadian technical assistance and training is being provided in assessment, audit, collection and customs administration through the Revenue Capacity Development Project

Additional initiatives support of human rights in India

Support to environmentally sound development includes:

- The India-Canada Environmental Facility, which supports activities that focus on the interrelationship between poverty, population growth and environmental degradation.
- The Kerala State Electricity Board, which has been provided with support to improve its long-term operating efficiency and environmental and energy-use management systems.

Additional initiatives are mobilizing communities to conserve India's forests

Finally, private sector development in India is being furthered through CIDA's work in a number of key areas. For instance:

- The Private Sector Development Project addresses obstacles to private sector development in telecommunications, energy and financial services. CIDA is also helping the Government of India develop a competitive telecommunications sector.
- Another key initiative, Banking with the Poor, helps the poor to set-up viable businesses by improving their access to bank loans.

India – Education Centres

QUESTION

How successful has been the Canadian Education Centre in India since its opening in 1997? Has any impact on number of students be felt as a result of the financial crisis in Asia?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The financial crisis in Asia has had minimal impact on India and no impact on Indian students seeking to pursue education abroad.
- Since the Canadian Education Centre (CEC) opened in New Delhi on April 1st 1997, it has averaged 600 inquiries per month and approximately 500 students authorizations were issued for the year of 1997.
- The first ever Canadian education fairs in December 1997 in the cities of New Delhi, Bangalore, and Mumbai, were overwhelmingly successful with 4600, 3200, and 3800 students attending in each city respectively.
- As a result of the high level of interest in obtaining a Canadian education, the CEC network intends to expand in 1998-99 with the opening of a sub-office in Chennai (Madras).

India - Human Rights

QUESTION

Why is Canada pursuing closer relations with India given its poor record on human rights? Shouldn't we be admonishing India more vigorously in this area?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- While Canada has concerns about the human rights situation in India, we also recognize the open nature of Indian society, which is supported by democratic institutions and the rule of law.
- As with other countries, we maintain a constructive approach to human rights with India. Canadian officials and ministers discuss human rights with the Indian Government through bilateral and multilateral channels.
- Canada supports the goals and activities of the Indian National Human Rights Commission. We are pleased with the strong cooperation between our human rights commissions as a result of CIDA support.
- Communal and inter-religious tensions continue in India and poverty is widespread with about 30 per cent of India's population living below the poverty line. This combination has a strong negative impact on the human rights situation in India, despite some protections established within India's legal framework. Further socio-economic development in India can help provide the basis for greater respect for human rights.
- Our development cooperation programs support social and economic development in India, including the alleviation of poverty and improving the status of women. Canada can make a far greater contribution to the respect of human rights through increased bilateral contact, and by sharing our technology and expertise.

India - Human Rights and Child Labour

QUESTION

What is Canada doing about the child labour problem in India?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Child Labour is a complex issue, rooted largely in poverty, but also influenced by culture and traditional social practices.
- Canada views the economic exploitation of children as a violation of basic human rights, which outrages the instincts of fairness and decency shared by Canadians.
- Easy solutions such as trade enforcement measures can do more harm than good to those people we want to help. Simply putting children out of work is not the solution; there must be alternatives for ensuring their education, care, and the income of their families. We believe that open markets and better labour standards are complementary and reinforce each other.
- India has made a commitment to eliminate the child labour in hazardous industries by 2000, and all exploitative child labour by 2010. This is a significant step forward.
- Canada is working hard in the International Labour Organization (ILO) to enhance core labour standards. In particular, we are actively developing a new convention on eliminating exploitation of child workers. This convention is expected to be introduced by 1999.
- The Child Development Fund, established during the visit of Minister Axworthy in January 1997, is dedicated specifically to the welfare of children.
- The Government will release by April 3, 1998 its response to a Parliamentary Report on exploitative child labour, outlining new and existing initiatives to combat this problem.

India - Child Development Fund

QUESTION

What is the Child Development Fund and what is its mandate?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canada strongly supports the efforts of the Government of India and Indian civil society to protect children from exploitation and to ensure that they have access to education.
- The Child Development Fund will be dedicated specifically to the welfare of children. Administered by the Canadian High Commission in Delhi, it will support a series of small projects, which would normally not exceed \$50,000 each.

This funding will be used to develop the capacity of Indian institutions to:

- a) develop strategies to eliminate child labour, especially in hazardous industry, and commercial sexual exploitation while providing children and their families with alternative sources of income;
- b) ensure that children have access to primary education and the means to attend school. (Special emphasis will be placed on girl children);
- c) effectively engage in public policy discussions on children's issues and positively influence policy makers and other key decision makers;
- d) raise consciousness among the general population on children's issues;
- e) create alliances among local, national and international groups concerned with the welfare of children.

Background

- During a meeting between Minister Axworthy and Indian External Affairs Minister Gujral, it was agreed that Canada may be able to assist India in its campaign to reduce and eventually eliminate child labour, especially in hazardous industries, to enable these children to attend school, and to increase public awareness of and concern for children's issues.

India – Human Rights and ODA

QUESTION

How is Canada's ODA working to promote respect for human rights in India?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- CIDA has been helping to develop local capacity in India to address human rights concerns through a Governance Support Fund (GSF) which supports the advancement of civil, social and economic rights of vulnerable groups.
- Approximately 10 out of 20 projects approved under the GSF focus on child labour including strengthening local capacity to formulate strategies and policies; sensitize law enforcing agencies (police, labour inspectors, etc.) the judiciary, industry associations and the public.
- In January 1997, CIDA approved a Child Development Fund (\$500,000) dedicated specifically to the welfare of children, focusing on developing the capacity to reduce child labour, especially in hazardous industries, commercial and sexual exploitation of children, and ensuring universal access to primary education with emphasis on the girl child.
- In February 1996, the Canadian Human Rights Commission and related Canadian agencies participated in a joint seminar with the National Human Rights Commission of India. They signed a Record of Agreement which outlined the basis of a formal linkage between the Indian and Canadian Human Rights Communities.
- In December 1996, CIDA approved the \$1.6 million, 3-year National Human Rights Commission Linkage Project. The project is designed as a Commission-to-Commission engagement in which human rights professionals from both countries share their expertise in a mutually beneficial collaboration.
- The Gender Equity Fund (GEF) directly supports the capacity of Indian institutions and NGO's to improve the role and status of women in India. Many of the activities funded by GEF promote the economic, social and political rights of women. Specific initiatives include training on women and law and gender sensitization, and police training on women's and children's rights.

India - Kashmir and Human Rights

QUESTION

It is reported that the human rights situation in Kashmir is deplorable with the Indian security forces perpetrating abuses. Does Canada condone this? Why doesn't Canada support the self-determination objectives of the Kashmiri people?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canada is aware of the sensitivity of Kashmir in India-Pakistan relations.
- Canada considers that a sustained bilateral dialogue is required between India and Pakistan to resolve all their differences, including those over Kashmir.
- We also recognize that discussions between the Indian Government and Kashmiris are required to achieve a political solution.
- Canada has serious concerns with the human rights situation in Kashmir, and has stated these concerns to India on a bilateral basis and before the UN General Assembly and the UN Commission on Human Rights on various occasions.
- Acts of terrorism by militant groups in Kashmir have exacerbated the political and human rights situation in Kashmir in recent years. The bombing of public places is abhorrent and results in the deaths of innocent Kashmiris.

India - Military Exports

QUESTION

What was the value and content of exports of military goods to India over the past year?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Exports of military goods to India in 1996 were very limited, amounting to less than \$3 million. They included a few small firearms, a scrapped ship, and a limited ECM system.
- The value of sales of Canadian military equipment to Pakistan is minimal; the equipment conformed to Canadian policies governing such exports, and would be unlikely to directly affect the human rights situation in that country.

Responsive only

- None of the approved sales could be seen as a destabilizing factor in the India-Pakistan bilateral relationship or as conducive to a degradation of the Kashmir issue between the two Asian nations.

India — Nuclear Non-Proliferation/Missiles

QUESTION

India poses a nuclear threat and has defied the international community on arms control issues. Why is this tolerated?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- India is considered to have a nuclear capability and has developed ballistic missiles. Canada would welcome India into the NPT and the Missile Technology Control Regime.
- Canada's relationship with India is a multifaceted one in which the CTBT and NPT are but two aspects. We regret India's decision to not support the CTBT and the NPT and we hope it will reconsider its position.

India — Nuclear Safety Cooperation

QUESTION

Canada's relations with India nose-dived following the 1974 Indian nuclear explosion using Canadian-derived material. Is India now open for nuclear cooperation again? Are we providing any assistance with the safety of the Canadian-supplied reactors?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canada terminated nuclear cooperation with India in 1974 following India's nuclear explosion using Canadian-derived nuclear material.
- Full nuclear cooperation with India cannot proceed at this time, as India does not satisfy the requirements of Canada's nuclear non-proliferation policy: accession to the NPT or an equivalent nuclear non-proliferation undertaking; acceptance of fullscope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards; and a non-explosive use commitment.
- Since 1990 Canada has been prepared to offer limited nuclear safety assistance under certain conditions, including international auspices. We hope to pursue this further with India.

India – Punjab and Human Rights

QUESTION

Has Canada raised with India the human rights situation in the Punjab, and the mistreatment of Sikhs? Why are we not protesting the abduction of Punjabi human rights activist, Jaswant Singh Khalra?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canada looks forward to increased peace and prosperity throughout India, including the Punjab which is the place of origin of many Indo-Canadians.
- The abduction of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra from his home in the Punjab in September 1995 was a matter of great concern for Canada.
- India's Central Bureau of Investigation named nine Punjab policemen allegedly involved in Khalra's kidnapping. These policemen have now been charged. The chief accused, however, has committed suicide, thus making further investigations more difficult.
- The CBI will continue its investigation in order to determine the whereabouts of Mr. Khalra.
- During the Team Canada visit to India in January 1996, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Asia Pacific discussed the disappearance of Mr. Khalra with their Indian interlocutors.
- Canadian government officials continue to meet regularly with representatives of the NHRC and the Government of India to discuss the progress of this investigation.

Responsive: Is Khalra dead?

- In the absence of evidence to the contrary, we must presume he is alive and proceed on that basis.

India – Punjab and Trade

QUESTION

What trade opportunities are there for Canadian businesses interested in the Punjab?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The main sectors where trade and business opportunities may exist in Punjab in the future re: agriculture, telecommunications, power and environment.
- These are all priority sectors for our trade program in India in general.

India - Punjab Office

QUESTION

Why did the Canadian government open an office in Punjab?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The Canadian office in Punjab recognizes the normalization of conditions in Punjab and reflects our confidence in the future stability, prosperity and peace in the region.
- Punjab is the wealthiest state in India. Given the large number of Canadians who trace their roots to Punjab, this region holds out the promise of significant trade and investment opportunities for Canadian businesses. In anticipation of this, we have established an office there to facilitate the people-to-people contacts which will help us to make the most of these opportunities.
- It has become increasingly evident that the people of Punjab are seeking to address their grievances through peaceful means. The establishment of this office is an important symbol of Canada's recognition of this fact and of our confidence in the future of a stable, prosperous and peaceful Punjab.

India – Punjab Office

QUESTION

How much does the office cost and how many people does it employ?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The office costs \$325,000 to operate annually. This is in addition to the one-time set-up cost of \$523,000.
- Set-up costs included office fit-up (including security measures), equipment purchase and staff training. Operations costs include salaries for the seven locally-hired staff, rent, security, utilities and equipment maintenance and replacement.
- The office began operations on April 1, 1997.

India - Punjab Office

QUESTION

Does the establishment of this office mean Canada is in some way recognizing the distinctiveness of this region? Does this action not send a message to Quebec sovereigntists that if Canada is willing to do so abroad it should do so for Quebec?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The Canadian office in Chandigarh will be established to better serve the large numbers of visa applicants who come from Northern India, and to make the most of trade opportunities there.
- Canada respects the territorial integrity of India and does not view the existence of the Canadian office in Punjab as changing this position.

India — Team Canada Results

QUESTION

How much were the deals signed during the Team Canada mission to India (January 1996) worth? Were they firm contracts? How much trade has really been confirmed as a result of the mission?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canadian companies signed 76 agreements valued at an estimated \$3.39 billion during the Team Canada mission. Of these agreements, 20 were contracts and 56 were agreements in principle, including memoranda of understanding.
- Team Canada participants have reported an additional 18 business deals, valued at an estimated \$105.75 million, since the mission.
- The deals signed during the Team Canada mission are now being reflected in our improved trade performance with India. In 1997, Canadian exports totalled \$459 million, a record high.

India - Terrorism

QUESTION

Why did Canada agree to establish a working group with India on terrorism?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canada works with many countries in the fight against international terrorism, particularly our P-8 partners (G-7 plus Russia).
- Canada works at the regional level to counter terrorism with Asia Pacific countries
- India is a major regional power, and some Indian terrorist groups have had links to Canadian individuals. Thus it is in our interests to discuss these issues with India.
- During Minister Axworthy's meeting in New Delhi in January 1997 with then-Indian External Affairs Minister Gujral, we agreed to set up an informal working group to improve the already good cooperation between Canada and India in countering terrorism.

Responsive: will this target Canadian Sikhs?

- Questions on the domestic aspects of terrorism or terrorism support activities by groups in Canada should be directed to the Solicitor-General of Canada.

India - Trade Balance

QUESTION

Isn't it true that Canada has a negative trade balance with India, and that Canadian exports to India have actually been declining in recent years?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- While it is true that our bilateral trade favours India, Canada's exports to India continue to grow. In 1997 we exported \$459 million of goods and services to India, a new record.
- Total Canada-India trade in 1997 was almost \$1.2 billion, also a new record.
- Canada is the 15th largest investor in India, and in the first ten months of 1997, approved Canadian direct investment totalled \$144 million.

India – Business Delegation Goals

QUESTION

What are members of our business delegation hoping to accomplish by going to India? What are the markets they will be pursuing? Are there new markets that will be opening up?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- This visit will provide a high-profile opportunity for these Canadian companies to promote their industrial capabilities and technological expertise in India.
- The business delegation is concentrated in telecommunications, insurance, power and transportation. As a rapidly-growing economy of nearly a billion people, India presents opportunities for Canadian companies in a variety of new markets.

Pakistan – Main Messages

- CANADA IS PLEASED TO COMMEMORATE PAKISTAN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE WITH THIS FIRST VISIT OF A CANADIAN HEAD OF STATE.
- CANADA WELCOMES ITS RENEWED AND GROWING PARTNERSHIP WITH PAKISTAN, WHICH WAS BORNE OUT OF THE 1996 TEAM CANADA MISSION.
- OUR STRONG GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TIES, OUR INCREASED TRADE RELATIONS, AND CANADA'S VIBRANT PAKISTANI-CANADIAN COMMUNITY PROMISE EVEN GREATER COOPERATION AT THE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL LEVELS.
- CANADA RECOGNIZES THAT STIMULATING BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING PAKISTAN'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF JOBS AND PROSPERITY IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES.

Pakistan - CIDA Projects

Canada's development assistance program with Pakistan focuses on:

- Strengthening Pakistan's institutional capacity and encouraging policy change in support of development that is equitable and sustainable promoting a transition of the Canada-Pakistan relationship from donor-recipient to a partnership based on mutual interests.

Canada's development program with Pakistan is achieving many successes. For example:

- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Pakistan have become stronger and more effective advocates of human rights, good governance and democratic development.
- NGO projects and programs have demonstrated successful approaches to poverty alleviation and the strengthening of civil society. Their approaches have been applied throughout Pakistan.
- Canada is building the capacity of women's groups to strengthen advocacy and policy initiatives and has contributed to attitudinal changes regarding women and their role in society.
- Canada has helped Pakistan develop an internationally acclaimed national conservation strategy and is helping to support the plan's implementation.
- Projects funded by Canada have made a direct and substantial impact on power availability, policy formulation and the development of environmental sustainable planning capacity. Canada's support has been instrumental in the development of Pakistan's National Power Plan.
- Canada's work in Pakistan has been instrumental in creating four indigenous NGOs.
- Successful connections have developed between Canada and Pakistan among academic and health institutions, non-governmental and environmental organisations and the private sector.
- Canada supports initiatives which promote development in Pakistan and generate long-term commercial benefits for both countries. Many spin-offs have accrued to Canadian firms as a result of Canada's support for projects in Pakistan's private sector.

Pakistan — Education Centres

QUESTION

Are there any plans to open a Canadian Education Centre in Pakistan?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- There are currently no plans to open a Centre in Pakistan, but the High Commission in Islamabad has been active in providing more support to Canadian education exporters and we are exploring different ways in which this service may be enhanced.

Pakistan – Human Rights Violations

QUESTION

Why does Canada ignore Pakistan's abysmal human rights record?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canada is concerned about human rights abuses in Pakistan. We regularly raise these concerns with Pakistan, bilaterally and in multilateral fora such as the United Nations General Assembly and the UNCHR.
- At the same time, we acknowledge that Pakistan is in a period of economic and social transition where ethnic and class differences are acute. The Pakistani government recognizes that human rights abuses are a serious social problem. Since emerging from martial law, Pakistan has taken steps toward greater protection of human rights, both legislatively and through social and economic development.
- Pakistan has acknowledged the need to change discriminatory legislation, and prevent discrimination against minorities including the Ahmadiyas and Christians.
- Canada is supporting the greater protection of human rights in Pakistan through our development cooperation program.
- Canada has assisted and consulted with leading human rights activists, and has provided advice on Canadian human rights legislation and procedures.

Pakistan – Human Rights and Child Labour

QUESTION

What is Canada doing about the child labour problem in Pakistan?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Child labour is a complex issue, rooted largely in poverty, but also influenced by culture and traditional social practices.
- Canada views the economic exploitation of children as a violation of basic human rights, which outrages the instincts of fairness and decency shared by Canadians. Canada has been a leader internationally in encouraging countries to adopt the standards set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Easy solutions such as trade enforcement measures can do more harm than good to those people we want to help. Simply putting children out of work is not the solution; there must be alternatives for ensuring their education, care, and the income of their families. We believe that open markets and better labour standards are complementary and reinforce each other.
- Canada is working hard in the International Labour Organization (ILO) to enhance core labour standards. In particular, we are actively developing a new convention on eliminating exploitation of child workers. This convention is expected to be introduced by 1999.
- Pakistan, and other South Asian nations, have agreed to eliminate child labour by 2010.

Pakistan — Human Rights and Women's Rights

QUESTION

What is Canada doing to promote women's rights in Pakistan?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Women's rights are the cornerstone of Canada's development cooperation program in Pakistan, which seeks to make women full agents and beneficiaries of development.
- Some projects like the \$17-million Development of Women Health Professionals Program and the \$25 million Vocational Training Program specifically target women. In other cases, assistance is provided to local community based organizations to implement women's programs at a grassroots level.
- Through the Women in Development program, projects have sought to influence change with respect to discriminatory policies and attitudes, assist victims of violence, provide human rights training and mobilize women voters.

Pakistan - Military Exports

QUESTION

What was the value and content of exports of military goods to Pakistan over the past year?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Exports of military goods to Pakistan in 1996 were very limited, amounting to less than \$3 million. They included a few small firearms, radios, and a fire-control system.
- The value of sales of Canadian military equipment to Pakistan is minimal; the equipment conformed to Canadian policies governing such exports, and would be unlikely to directly affect the human rights situation in that country.

Responsive only

- None of the approved sales could be seen as a destabilizing factor in the India-Pakistan bilateral relationship or as conducive to a degradation of the Kashmir issue between the two Asian nations.

Pakistan - Nuclear Safety Cooperation

QUESTION

Full-scale bilateral nuclear cooperation with Pakistan was terminated in 1976. Is Canada willing to resume nuclear cooperation? Are we providing any assistance regarding the safety of the Canadian-supplied reactors?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canada terminated full-scale bilateral nuclear cooperation with Pakistan in 1976.
- Normal nuclear cooperation is not possible because of Pakistan's refusal to join the global non-proliferation regime, (i.e to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty or provide an equivalent internationally binding legal non-proliferation commitment), and to accept International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) fullscope safeguards on all of its present and future nuclear activities.
- Until then we will not be receptive to further proposals for assistance beyond safety matters towards operational assistance.
- Canada has allowed some safety assistance to Kanupp to go forward in light of our humanitarian concern about the safety of this reactor and our desire not to avoid an accident associated with Canadian supplied technology.
- We are pleased that we have found a way to contribute to the safety of this plant although, of course, the safe operation of the plant remains the responsibility of Pakistan.
- Since the policy adjustment of 1990, our sensitivity to nuclear proliferation has increased significantly, particularly in response to Iraq's object lesson on the risks involved. Most of the world has responded by supporting efforts to strengthen the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Pakistan - Team Canada Results

QUESTION

How much were the deals signed during the Team Canada mission to Pakistan in January 1996 worth? Were they firm contracts? How much business has really been confirmed as a result of the mission?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Of the six government-to-government agreements signed, two have been successfully implemented, two are in the planning stage, and two did not proceed. Of the 17 commercial agreements signed, seven have been successfully implemented, worth to date \$32 million; five have fallen through.
- Since the Team Canada visit, there have been important changes in the Pakistan government : PM Bhutto was dismissed in November 1996 and replaced by an interim government until the February 1997 elections, a situation which has resulted in bureaucratic delays, coupled by a worsening of Pakistan's finances. This situation has created delays in the largest bilateral projects, including SNC-Lavalin's Karachi Light Rail Transit project, worth US\$700 million, and hydro-electric projects, worth some \$1.4 billion in all.

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