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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TO OFFICIATE AT GROUNDBREAKING IN JAPAN

OF NEW CANADIAN EMBASSY JULY 1, 1988

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, will officiate July 1 at the groundbreaking in Tokyo for Place Canada, the new Canadian Embassy in Japan.

In his remarks, Mr. Clark said "this innovative project of Canadian design is to assist us in effectively moving Canada's relations with Japan well into the next century. This is a project designed to help us maintain and increase an already very dynamic and sophisticated relationship with our second largest trading partner."

The project employs an innovative development approach being used for the first time by a foreign government in Japan. Valuable Canadian-owned Embassy land in the heart of Tokyo is being used to provide the funding for facilities at relatively little cost to the Canadian taxpayer. Canada will end up with buildings estimated at a value of more than \$200 million at current exchange rates (initial capital outlay for design and construction), and will save almost \$4 million currently spent each year on rent for supplementary office space and housing for Canadian staff and their families.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

The Embassy redevelopment project is being implemented through an agreement signed in May between the Government of Canada and a Japanese consortium. The consortium, formed by the Shimizu Corporation and the Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corporation, will finance, design and construct buildings which will contain space in excess of Canada's immediate requirements. This surplus space will be managed under a trust and rented to third parties. The income generated will permit the consortium to recoup the investment required to finance the project. When the consortium has recouped its investment, the surplus portion will revert to Canada for its use. Canada will retain ownership of the land.

The principal architect for the project is Raymond Moriyama of Moriyama and Teshima, Toronto, who has designed many highly-acclaimed public buildings in Canada and abroad.

Construction of Place Canada will commence in early 1989 and the new Embassy will be completed in the early part of 1991. The construction of the Permanent Housing will then commence and is scheduled to be completed in October 1992. Historic Marler House, the Canadian ambassador's official residence in Tokyo since Canada first opened an office in 1929, will remain as an integral component of the overall plan.

Canada-Japan relations are a cornerstone of Canadian interests in the Asia Pacific region. Japan is Canada's second largest trading partner and a major source of investment and tourism. The redevelopment of the Canadian Embassy property will serve to further enhance Canada's presence in Japan. The surplus space in Place Canada will be available for leasing by provincial governments, and Canadian and Japanese commercial entities. The building will be a showcase designed for the display of Canadian cultural attractions and high technology. It will be a statement of Canada's willingness to continue to work harmoniously with Japan, and will project an image of Canada's industrial spirit efficiency and natural beauty.

Mr. Clark is in Tokyo for the Sixth Canada-Japan Foreign Ministers' Consultations. He is discussing domestic and international issues with Japanese Foreign Minister Sousuke Uno.