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CANADA WISHES AUSTRALIA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

"Happy Birthday Australia"! With those words the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today, wished Australia the best as celebrations began "down under" to mark the 200th anniversary of European settlement in Australia.

Mr. Clark noted that "the Bicentennial allows Australians to celebrate an important milestone in the history of their country and provides a unique opportunity for their friends and neighbours to join in the festivities and to express their friendship and closeness". "Canada has enjoyed close and historic links with Australia and we will be an active participant in the Bicentennial celebrations".

The centrepiece of Canadian participation will be the Canada pavilion at EXPO 88 in Brisbane from April 30 to October 30. One of the most visible forms of Canadian participation will be a nation wide tour by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Band. It will begin a four and one-half week engagement on June 15 in Melbourne. Canada will also be well represented at the Australian Military Tattoo which is to be held from 10 August to 11 December with performances scheduled by the Band of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and demonstrations by the famed Skyhawks Parachute Team. The House of Commons and Senate will be donating gifts to the new Australian Parliament which is due to open in the Bicentennial year. A wide range of other activities from dance troupes to a Canadian Studies Conference have been planned.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada

Mr. Clark expressed the hope that a large number of Canadians everywhere would take the opportunity presented by the Bicentennial to visit Australia and to act as goodwill Ambassadors from Canada.

For further information please contact:

Mr. Donald R. Mackay
Asia Pacific South Relations Division
Department of External Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2
(613) 992-0665

-or-

Mr. Pierre Morin
Deputy Commissioner General
for EXPO 88
International Expositions Division
Department of External Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2
(613) 992-1344