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CANADA ANNOUNCES NEW AID RELATIONSHIP  
WITH THE PHILIPPINES

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, informed Her Excellency President Aquino today that Canada fully supports and admires the efforts of her government to build a new order in the Philippines. Mr. Clark is visiting the Philippines for discussions with the President, Vice-President Laurel, Finance Minister Ongpin and the Governor of Negros Occidental Province, Daniel Lacson.

Mr. Clark met with President Aquino this morning at Malacanang Guest House. He told her that Canada is determined to assist the Philippines in concrete, practical ways. Canada is prepared to begin a new aid relationship immediately, Mr. Clark said.

Mr. Clark said that he intends to make the Philippines a priority country for Canadian aid. This means the implementation of a range of Canadian assistance activities over the long term.

Mr. Clark also informed the President that the Canadian International Development Agency will provide the Negros Rehabilitation and Development Fund with the contribution of \$10 million (Canadian) over the next three years. This grant fund will be used to help the rural poor in the provinces of Negros Occidental and Negros Del Norte who have been displaced because of the slump in sugar prices. It will help the area to diversify away from sugar production.

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Mr. Clark visited Negros Occidental yesterday in order to assess first hand the development problems of the province. He met Governor Daniel Lacson and presented cheques totalling \$84,000 (Canadian) to four NGO organizations active in social and economic development work. The presentation symbolizes Canada's commitment for active and urgent support of rehabilitation and development work in Negros Occidental and Negros Del Norte.

The Minister also outlined Canada's commitment to an over \$5 million (Canadian) program of assistance for the Philippines Immunization Program. The assistance will help the Government of the Philippines to achieve its goal of universal child immunization by 1990. The Canadian grant will be used to purchase vaccines for such childhood diseases as measles, polio and diphtheria.

Mr. Clark also announced the extension of the Bayawan Small Scale Fisheries Development in Negros Oriental. Canada has been assisting the project for the past four years. The extension will continue Canadian support for another two years in the area of marketing for fishing cooperatives.

Canada is also developing additional projects for assistance in the fields of cooperatives and rural education.