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JOE CLARK CONCLUDES JASPER MEETING OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS

JASPER, ALBERTA - The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today concluded the Special Canada-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Jasper. The informal discussions, which began on October 4th in Calgary, marked the first time that Foreign Ministers of ASEAN states (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) had met outside of Asia as guests of a 'dialogue' country. Member states include Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Mr. Clark also hosted Canadian cabinet colleagues the Hon. John Crosbie, the Hon. Benoit Bouchard, the Hon. Monique Landry and the Hon. Mary Collins.

"ASEAN has developed into a flexible organization for co-operation and dialogue among its members and others on a variety of regional and global issues, both economic and political. It has become a singular force for moderation and peace," said Mr. Clark. The Minister noted the unique relationship which has developed with countries outside the organization, particularly its 'dialogue partners,' which include Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the United States and the European Community.

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Mr. Clark stressed that the success of the Jasper meeting underscored the growing ties between Canada and ASEAN in both the political and commercial spheres. He described the frank exchanges with his Foreign Minister colleagues on regional and international problems as "invaluable," particularly as they related to Asia-Pacific Security, Cambodia, the situation in the Gulf and future Canada-ASEAN relations in the economic field.

Mr. Clark also reiterated Canada's support for the democratically-elected government of President Aquino in the Philippines and the restoration of its authority in Northern Mindanao following the recent failed insurrection.

For more information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874