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Vellacott comments on APEC Summit and China

For Immediate Release

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OTTAWA – Yesterday, there were media reports regarding the Prime Minister’s meeting schedule for the APEC Summit in Hanoi. The Prime Minister addressed this issue during a media availability on the aircraft en route to the APEC Summit.

Maurice Vellacott (MP Saskatoon-Wanuskewin) notes that China approached Canadian officials about a meeting and the Conservative Government accepted. Subsequently China withdrew the meeting offer.

Vellacott states that, “Our Government remains open to meeting with China at any time – at APEC or anywhere else. We would, however want a substantive agenda on economic and trade relations and consular cases like Huseyin Celil who was taken from a third country and is imprisoned in China.”

Vellacott went on to say, “Our Government, in dealing with all countries, is very frank about Canada’s economic priorities and about our values and our interests. We will not accept any conditions on having discussions. We will express Canadian views on political issues, human rights concerns, and in particular matters that affect Canadian citizens.”

Vellacott concluded, “Our Ministers will continue to visit China with targeted objectives related to Canadian interests. Our Ministers continue to meet regularly with their Chinese counterparts. Minister Strahl has been to China, and Minister Lunn is currently in China having a very productive visit.”

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For further comment, call (613) 992-1966 or 297-2249