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The Canadian Government has learned with concern of the announcement last week by the Turkish-Cypriot administration of its intention to establish a separate, secular and federated state on the northern portion of the Island. As a major contributor to the UN's peacekeeping activities on Cyprus, Canada has sought to avoid taking sides on aspects of the dispute between the two communities. Instead, we have tried to encourage representatives of the communities to engage in meaningful negotiations from which a permanent and generally acceptable solution might emerge. Negotiations were initiated earlier this year but it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that they have received a serious setback by the recent unilateral action of the Turkish-Cypriot administration.

Since Canada has consistently supported the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus, the Canadian Government has noted with satisfaction the Turkish-Cypriot statement that their action is not intended to constitute partition of the Island nor to create a separate independent state. It has also noted that the intercommunal talks have not been formally discontinued. In its Resolution 3212 of November 1, 1974, the UN General Assembly commended these talks and called for their continuation. It is our hope, therefore, that despite this latest complication the leaders of the two communities on the Island will pursue their efforts through negotiation to find a solution that will adequately take account of the legitimate interests of all elements of the Cyprus population.