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CLARK EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN ABOUT FMLN OFFENSIVE IN EL SALVADOR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today expressed deep concern about the recent offensive launched by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in El Salvador.

FMLN guerrillas have attacked military positions, sabotaged electrical installations and taken control of townships in various parts of the country. Casualties have already been reported, and include civilians.

"This offensive action by the FMLN is a backward step and is not conducive to efforts toward national reconciliation in El Salvador," stated Mr. Clark. "A year ago many Salvadorans were killed, injured or orphaned during the FMLN's November offensive. These recent attacks have already claimed lives and will only add to the suffering of the Salvadoran people," added the Minister.

"We urge both the FMLN and the Government of El Salvador to continue the pursuit of a negotiated settlement for the benefit of all the Salvadoran people, as the only way to bring lasting peace to El Salvador," concluded Mr. Clark.

Mr. Clark underlined that he expects to see further progress in the investigation of the murder of six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter in El Salvador exactly one year ago. "It is unacceptable," he stated, "that the perpetrators of this inhuman act have not yet been brought to justice."