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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WELCOMES PEACE TALKS

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, said today he is encouraged by the agreement reached by the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) to begin talks.

"A negotiated settlement to the conflict offers the only reasonable prospect for peace," said Mr. Clark, noting the immense human suffering and economic hardship that has been caused in recent years by the conflict in El Salvador.

In addition to expressing his hopes for the peace talks in Mexico City, he welcomed the related announcement by the FMLN of a ceasefire, as well as the reported decision of the El Salvador Government to allow wounded FMLN fighters to go abroad for treatment.

"Canadians have been shocked by the recent upsurge in violence in El Salvador, including reports of torture and disappearances," said Mr. Clark. "We have insisted that the protection of human rights and the promotion of economic justice can be achieved only through efforts toward reconciliation by parties on both sides of this conflict".

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures