

The Government has been following closely developments in Cyprus with the aim of preventing the situation from deteriorating further and of contributing to a peaceful solution. In doing so we have had the following considerations in mind:

1. Canada has always supported the independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus which, among other things, is a member of the Commonwealth. We therefore deplore the violent overthrow earlier this week of the democratically elected government of Cyprus. It is our desire that a constitutionally valid government be returned to power on the Island and we will seek to contribute in any appropriate way we can to this objective.
2. There seems to be no reasonable doubt that officers of the Greek Armed Forces serving with the Cypriot National Guard played an active part in the movement to overthrow President Makarios. For its part the Greek Government has publicly stated that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Cyprus should be maintained. We consider it important that this statement be reflected by concrete action, particularly the recall by the Greek Government of its officers attached to the Cypriot National Guard, so that there would be no question of further Greek involvement in what the Athens Government has described as the internal affairs of Cyprus.
3. If the crisis that has developed on Cyprus is to be resolved in a peaceful manner, it seems to us that, in addition to the efforts of other interested governments and organizations, this will require close cooperation on the part of the United Kingdom, Greek and Turkish governments which, under the London and Zurich Agreements of 1959, have a formal responsibility for the preservation of Cyprus' independence. Among other things, these governments have specific treaty obligations to consult together in circumstances such as those that now prevail on Cyprus and we strongly urge that all three governments participate in such consultations without further delay. Only in this way can the danger of unilateral action, which could have such serious consequences, be effectively avoided.
4. The Canadian Government appreciates the moderation and restraint exercised to date by the Turkish/Cypriot community in Cyprus and the Government of Turkey, which are understandably concerned about recent developments on the Island.