

News Release

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



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CANADA SATISFIED WITH GUATEMALAN RECOGNITION OF BELIZE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today expressed satisfaction with Guatemala's decision to recognize Belize as a sovereign, independent state.

"President Jorge Serrano Elias has taken a decisive step to reduce tension and instability in Central America," stated Mrs. McDougall. President Serrano's declaration of September 5 removes the major obstacle to Belize's integration into regional institutions.

Belize, a member of the Commonwealth, became independent in 1981. Guatemala is the last country to extend its official recognition. Canada fully supports this act of statesmanship on the part of the Guatemalan leader. Canada hopes that Guatemala and Belize will find a peaceful solution to their territorial disagreements.

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