



communiqué

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CONDEMNATION OF ILLEGAL ACTS AGAINST DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES IN CANADA

The Honourable Jean Chrétien, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, today issued a strongly worded statement expressing regret over the forced entry by demonstrators into the property occupied by the Indian Consul General in West Vancouver. Mr. Chrétien also condemned any illegal acts against diplomatic facilities in Canada by groups or individuals pursuing political objectives in other countries. The statement came in the aftermath of an incident yesterday when a large number of demonstrators protesting against the Indian government's policy towards members of the Sikh minority forced their way through a police cordon in an effort to prevent the holding of ceremonies related to India's Independence Day. The violence yesterday was the latest of a series of incidents against Indian diplomatic personnel and property, including the manhandling of the Indian Acting High Commissioner by demonstrators in Winnipeg last month.

The text of Mr. Chrétien's statement was as follows:

I was shocked to learn of the events yesterday when demonstrators forced their way through a police cordon into the property in West Vancouver occupied by the Indian Consul General.

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