

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

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CANADIAN CONCERN AT LACK OF CYPRUS SETTLEMENT

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs has issued the following statement concerning the United Nations Secretary General's efforts to promote a settlement in Cyprus:

"It is with concern that the Government of Canada has learned of the results of the recent direct negotiations between the leaders of the two Cypriot communities held under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations. It is a matter of deep regret that these talks, on which so much hope had been placed, have resulted in little progress towards a settlement. Last December Canada strongly endorsed the successful efforts of Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar in arranging for these talks on the basis of an agreed framework, that should have provided a first step to the ending of this longstanding conflict.

The present setback must not be allowed to impede progress. Canada calls on the leaders of both Cypriot communities to persevere with sustained effort and goodwill and to take full advantage of the singular opportunity presented by the Secretary General to make peace. We hope that they will agree to meet again very soon with him, rededicated and committed to reaching a negotiated settlement."