

News Release

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CLARK WELCOMES FALL OF CEAUSESCU

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today warmly welcomed the fall from power of the Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Given these developments, he also announced the suspension of the package of measures the Canadian government adopted on December 21 in reaction to the recent brutal repression of the Romanian people. These measures will remain in suspension pending clarification of the situation in Romania.

In light of the overthrow of the Ceausescu regime, the Canadian Ambassador to Romania has been asked to remain in that country in order to assist in advising the Canadian Government on the evolving situation. The planned evacuation of Canadians has been put on hold. Plans exist for their rapid removal should conditions warrant.

Mr. Clark stated that "the removal of the Ceausescu regime is a joyous moment for all Romanians and Canadians who hold dear the values of human life and liberty. It is now important for the new regime to restore order peacefully and to take actions which will finally place Romania in the ranks of reforming East European countries. Canada looks forward to the full normalization of relations with a new Romanian Government and to supporting the Romanian people in the challenges ahead."

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