



communiqué

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CANADIAN SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN FIJI

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has expressed the Canadian Government's support for the Governor General of Fiji in his efforts to promote national reconciliation and to establish a consensus on the restoration of constitutional democracy to Fiji.

On May 21, Mr. Clark issued a statement which deplored attempts to undermine Fiji's constitution and its parliamentary democracy. He called on all groups in Fiji to seek to shape their nation's future through public discussion and the parliamentary process, rather than through force of arms. In response to a question in the House on June 29, Mr. Clark noted that he had recently met with a special emissary of the Governor General of Fiji who had outlined the latter's proposals to return Fiji to parliamentary democracy. He took the opportunity to indicate Canada's support for the Governor General's proposals.

The Governor General's proposals, the first details of which were announced on June 11, call for public hearings on the constitution by a bipartisan Constitutional Review Committee. A Council of National Reconciliation, composed of the members of the last Parliament and the Governor General's Council of Advisers, will be convened and will seek to establish a national consensus on constitutional reform. New elections are to be held by November.

Mr. Clark also advised the House that he had examined the question of the safety of Canadian visitors to Fiji and indicated that he saw no reason for Canadians to be concerned about travelling to Fiji.