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DEMONSTRATION AT THE TURKISH EMBASSY APRIL 24

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, today released the following text of a diplomatic note given to the Turkish Ambassador, H.E. Tahir Senturk, concerning the demonstration in front of the Turkish Embassy on April 24:

"The Department of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of Turkey and expresses its sincere and deep regrets to the Embassy of Turkey for the damage caused to the Turkish Chancery and Residence on Wurtemberg Street during a public demonstration on April 24.

While Canada traditionally has respected the freedom of expression for all of its citizens, it cannot condone the use of violence to this end.

Canada places great importance on its relations with Turkey, a valuable NATO ally and fellow partner in the OECD. It trusts that the incident will not hinder the expansion of the excellent relations that have always existed between Canada and Turkey.

Aware of its responsibilities under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Government of Canada will compensate the Government of Turkey for the damages to its Embassy and will be considering measures to ensure further the protection of the property and dignity of foreign missions as required under Article XXII of the Convention. In addition, consultations are taking place between the appropriate authorities on possible legal action to be taken as a result of last week's demonstration.

The Department of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of Turkey the assurances of its highest consideration."