

News Release

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Communiqué

Secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires
extérieures

No. 237

December 17, 1992

CANADA EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CUBA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today expressed her disappointment about recent developments in the human rights situation in Cuba.

"Canadians are deeply troubled by the attack last week on Mr. Elizardo Sanchez, the President of the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation," said Mrs. McDougall. "I call upon the Cuban authorities to stop the harassment of dissidents."

The Minister indicated that the Cuban Chargé d'affaires had been called in by External Affairs and International Trade Canada to be informed of Canada's concerns. In addition, on December 15, the Canadian Ambassador to Cuba, Ms. Julie Loranger, expressed Canada's position to Mr. Ramon Sanchez-Parodi, the Cuban Vice Minister of External Relations.

Over the past three decades, Canada and Cuba have had productive relations in the fields of fisheries, tourism, agriculture and trade. However, Canada has always been concerned about the state of human rights in Cuba and has frequently raised the issue with the Cuban government at the very highest levels.

- 30 -

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