



# communiqué

N<sup>o</sup>:  
No.: 186

September 25, 1987.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN FIJI

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today stated that he was most "disappointed and saddened" with the second coup in Fiji. "The friends of Fiji, both in the region and beyond, had been heartened by the steady and enlightened steps taken by the Governor-General over the past months to restore democracy to Fiji and respect the rights and aspirations of all Fijians. Unfortunately, elements in the Fijian armed forces were not prepared to allow the Governor-General to finish his task of returning Fiji to a parliamentary democracy."

Canada is deeply concerned at reports that former Prime Minister Bavadra and other political leaders may be under detention and calls for their immediate release and the restoration of the process of reconciliation and compromise launched by the Governor-General. Canada also calls for the immediate end to military control of the press.

Canada is following developments in Fiji very closely. At the current time we are not aware that any Canadians resident or visiting Fiji are in any danger. However Canadians are being advised not to travel to Fiji other than for urgent and pressing reasons.