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McDOUGALL CONCERNED BY THE SITUATION IN PERU

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, stated yesterday in South Africa that the unilateral dissolution of the Peruvian Congress by President Alberto Fujimori is very disturbing and that Canada cannot condone, in any circumstances, abuses of the democratic process.

"Canada is committed to democracy and human rights in this hemisphere, and we will take every possible action, in concert with the Organization of American States (OAS), to support these essential values," stated Mrs. McDougall.

President Fujimori announced in a late evening speech April 5 that he had dissolved the Congress and is reorganizing the judicial branch of government, as well as the office of the Comptroller General.

"Canada strongly supports the resolution passed during an emergency meeting of the Permanent Council of the OAS, chaired by Canada, which calls for an ad hoc meeting of Foreign Ministers," said Mrs. McDougall. The resolution also deplored the events that have taken place in Peru and urged the authorities in that country to reinstate democratic institutions immediately.

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