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CANADIAN STATEMENT ON CYPRUS

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs has issued the following statement concerning Cyprus:

"The Canadian government has learned with great satisfaction of the announcement by the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, that the leaders of the two Cypriot communities, President Spyros Kyprianou and Mr. Rauf Denktash, have agreed to meet in January.

Canada has participated in peacekeeping on Cyprus for twenty years and has just reaffirmed its commitment to UNFICYP (United Nations Forces in Cyprus) for another six month period. Canada has always shown a keen interest in reconciliation on the island and its own role has been to try and facilitate the renewal of confidence building by preventing a recurrence of hostilities.

The announcement justifies the deep conviction Canadians have always held that Cypriots can, if they want to, take their own problems in hand, once a minimum of peace and stability is restored to their country.