

News Release

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CLARK WELCOMES RESUMPTION OF PEACE TALKS IN EL SALVADOR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today welcomed the resumption of peace talks between the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (F.M.L.N.).

"The announcement by United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar today in Geneva gives us renewed hope that an end will be found to the civil conflict in El Salvador, which has brought so much suffering," stated Mr. Clark. "A negotiated settlement represents the only viable prospect for peace. The greatest challenge will be to secure lasting reconciliation, which will guarantee the protection of human rights and promote economic justice."

Mr. Clark added that Canada was ready to strengthen its efforts to support the peace process in El Salvador.

"Our provision of much needed humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to the people of El Salvador will continue, as will our program for refugees. Our dialogue with all parties to the conflict in El Salvador, and our active role in international organizations working for peace in Central America underlines our commitment to the peace process. Canada will consider positively any request to assist in these vital negotiations."

"We urge the parties to persevere in working to bring about the peace which Salvadorans and friends of El Salvador so deeply desire," concluded Mr. Clark.

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