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THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

The tragic events of the past weeks in Burundi have aroused the indignation of the international community and of Canada. Canada places a very high priority on respect for human rights, including freedom of speech and of worship, and equality of opportunity, regardless of ethnic origin, political or religious beliefs. The Canadian government has strongly condemned the abhorrent acts of violence that have exacted such a high death toll.

On August 31, the Burundi Ambassador in Canada was informed by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, of the grave concern of the government and people of Canada over these events. He expressed the wish that every possible measure be taken to ensure the protection of life and a return to calm. Mr. Clark also appealed to the government of Burundi to make a full disclosure of the facts surrounding these events to the international community.

When word of these events first reached Canada, an official was sent to Burundi from August 20 to 24 to make a preliminary evaluation of the situation, to see that the Canadians there were safe and to determine the scope of the relief effort that

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

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