

News Release

Communiqué

Department of
External
Affairs



Ministère des
Affaires
extérieures

No. 193

September 12, 1988.

VIOLENCE IN HAITI

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the Canadian government is distressed to learn of yesterday's attack on the St-Jean Bosco Church in Port-au-Prince, which resulted in several deaths and dozens of injuries. He offered his sympathy to the families affected.

The Canadian government wishes to reaffirm the importance it ascribes to respect for human rights in Haiti, especially in regard to freedom of assembly, freedom of speech and freedom of religion. The need to respect human rights is especially acute at this time, since it has not yet been decided what mechanisms will be used to return to a democratic way of life, and since certain groups, under the cover of anonymity, seem determined to resort to the most violent means of intimidation to impose their views.

Mr. Clark has instructed the Canadian Ambassador in Port-au-Prince to call upon the Haitian authorities to take resolute steps to end the violent disruptions being caused by certain groups, and to create a climate conducive to the dialogue which all sectors must participate in if this society is to develop harmoniously.

- 30 -

Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada