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CANADA URGES MYANMAR TO COMPLETE MOVE TOWARD DEMOCRACY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, stated today that he has urged the Government of Myanmar, formerly Burma, to ensure that power be transferred to the duly elected representatives of the people following recent elections in that country.

"We welcome reports that the balloting process, which was for the most part free and fair, is now complete," wrote Mr. Clark, August 13, in a letter to General Saw Maung, Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council of Myanmar.

The Minister added that Canada now expects the Government of Myanmar to complete the process leading to democratic government and national reconciliation. Mr. Clark repeated Canada's call for the immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political detainees in that country.

He said that the fate of political and human rights in Myanmar would influence Canada's bilateral relationship with that country. "The course of those developments will have a direct impact on future relations between our two countries," stated Mr. Clark.

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