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CANADIAN STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN THAILAND

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today stated that Canada is deeply concerned by the recent military takeover of the democratically elected civilian government in Thailand. This action is seen as a serious setback in the development of the democratic process in Thailand which had been substantially advanced in recent years.

"Canada strongly urges the prompt and complete return to a democratic system in Thailand and the holding of a free all-party democratic election within the shortest possible time," said Mr. Clark.

In light of recent developments, Canada welcomes assurances from Thailand's military authorities that all international obligations will be honoured, that there will be full observance of human rights and that the international community in the country will be protected.

Canada will follow developments in Thailand closely and, over the coming weeks, will consider whether changes are required in our assistance and exchange programs.

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