



No. 200

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SITUATION IN BURMA

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today stated that the Canadian government is greatly concerned, as are all Canadians, by the reports of numerous deaths of protesters in the aftermath of a military coup in Burma this weekend. He offered his sympathies to the families affected.

Mr. Clark stated that the Canadian government condemned the use of violence by the military forces against those protesting existing conditions and seeking a return to democratic values in Burma. He called upon Burmese authorities to cease such activities and to begin the process of creating a dialogue with the people of Burma. He stated "it is essential that the military authorities live up to their commitment to hold multi-party elections, which all Canadians believe should be held as soon as possible".

Mr. Clark stated Canada will continue to follow the situation closely. He stressed that it was necessary for "all parties now to seek a peaceful resolution to the current situation, and one which supports a commitment to democracy and a respect for human rights". Mr. Clark stated that the views of the Canadian government would be officially communicated to the Burmese authorities.

Mr. Clark reported that all Canadians have now left Burma. He recommended that, in the present situation, it would not be advisable for Canadians to visit that country.

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