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REPORT ON REPEAT SEARCH OFF VENEZUELAN COAST FOR MISSING VESSEL LONG SHOT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, said today he regrets that a two-day repeat search off the northern Venezuelan coast for the vessel Long Shot has not turned up any evidence of the missing boat or its passengers. Mr. Clark expressed his sympathy to the families and friends of the persons involved in this tragic accident.

The Venezuelan Coast Guard undertook this latest search in response to a request from the Canadian government to double-check any possibility that the Long Shot and its six passengers might have been marooned in the search area.

The Venezuelan Coast Guard advised the Canadian Embassy in Caracas that the active search was officially terminated at dusk yesterday, Tuesday, January 17.

This repeat search concentrated on an area off the north coast of Venezuela, including a series of islands at about 12 degrees latitude along the coast. The area had been searched previously in an extensive eight-day search-and-rescue operation, coordinated by the United States Coast Guard under a United Nations agreement covering international co-operation and participation in such operations. This original search involved six local countries, with support from the Canadian government for participating private aircraft.

All aircraft and surface vessels in the area remain on the lookout for any evidence of the missing boat.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
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