

News Release

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U.S. ACTION IN PANAMA

The Canadian Government regrets the use of force by the USA in Panama but understands and is sympathetic to the American action in the circumstances, particularly given their concern over the escalating threats to American citizens in Panama.

Canada has, in the past, condemned the betrayal of the democratic process in Panama, most recently General Noriega's refusal to respect the results of the democratic election in May.

Intervention by force is a dangerous precedent and we note that the USA relied on force in the last resort, only after the failure of attempts to resolve the situation in Panama peacefully.

We hope for a quick return to democracy and stability in Panama.

The Prime Minister was advised of the American action early this morning through a phone call from President Bush.