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CLARK WELCOMES IMPROVING SITUATION IN ROMANIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, said today he welcomes indications that violence in Romania is abating and that the new government is assuming control of the situation.

"Reports from our Embassy in Bucharest, as well as news reports, now give us some cause for optimism that the bloodshed may soon be over," Mr. Clark said. "We hope this means that democratic values, including due process, will soon prevail as Romania emerges from a revolutionary condition to a more stable situation."

The Minister noted that Canada's ambassador in Bucharest, Saul Grey, has had discussions with the new authorities and has offered Canadian assistance to them. On Dec. 24, Canada provided \$100,000 in medical assistance to Romania through the Red Cross with whom the Canadian Government has been working closely.

"We have just been advised by the International Red Cross that their Bucharest field staff recommend that further emergency medical supplies be held back for the time being," Mr. Clark said. "That is a hopeful sign, although we will continue to monitor the situation closely."

He reiterated that the question of Canadian recognition of the new government does not arise. Canada recognizes states rather than governments, so no formal act of recognition is required.