



# communiqué

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STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
THE HONOURABLE MARK MACGUIGAN,  
CONCERNING THE POLISH SITUATION, DECEMBER 24, 1981

On December 23, 1981, I had a fruitful meeting with the Canadian Polish Congress to discuss the very serious situation in Poland. At the time I expressed the Government of Canada's deep sympathy with the Polish people in their present difficult circumstances. We also spoke of the need for the Polish people to resolve their difficulties without interference on the part of other nations and through compromise and consensus among the various national groupings.

In light of the widespread arrests and detentions, we are again urging restraint on the part of Poland's Government so that the expressed desire for an early return to renewal and reform can be achieved. In this regard we hope that the Polish Government will bring an early end to martial law and will enter forthwith into a serious dialogue with all parties to resolve the situation.

At this time we join with our Allies in expressing the fervent hope that there will be no more bloodshed and no more violence. As a signatory to the Helsinki Final Act, the Polish Government freely assumed a number of obligations regarding basic freedoms which now appear to be clearly in jeopardy. If mutual confidence is to be restored, it is imperative that an early return to the fundamental principles of the Act be achieved.