



# communiqué

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## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today issued the following statement concerning the recent elections in the Philippines:

"The Canadian Government is gravely concerned about allegations of widespread irregularities and abuses leading up to, during and subsequent to the recent elections in the Philippines. Observers of the elections have made credible reports of electoral malpractices. The Canadian Embassy in the Philippines carried out extensive monitoring of the elections and in its reports supported the conclusions of other observers. Moreover, through my officials, I have received a similar account from Senator Alasdair Graham who was in the Philippines at the time of the elections as a member of a team of international observers. These reports have been further supported by countless media reports, including those of some fifteen reporters from Canada.

The Canadian Government notes with concern that a number of respected Filipino organizations, including the Conference of Catholic Bishops, have denounced the elections as fraudulent.

The Government regrets the abuses which marred the February 7 elections. Our concern over developments in the Philippines is further increased by the presence in Canada of at least 100,000 Filipino-Canadians with family members and friends in the Philippines.

The Canadian Government will continue to monitor closely the political, economic and security situation in the Philippines. It is essential that all parties now seek a peaceful resolution to the current situation, one which respects and supports the commitment to democratic principles of the Filipino people".