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# news release

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## QUELLET DEPLORES DISTURBANCES IN LESOTHO

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today underscored Canada's support for the democratically elected government of Lesotho, and expressed concern over the breakdown of military discipline in the country.

"The violent actions of a small group of soldiers should not be allowed to place Lesotho's recent return to democracy at risk. Canada supports the efforts of the Lesotho government to bring this crisis to a peaceful end," Mr. Ouellet said.

Lesotho's capital, Maseru, has been disrupted by skirmishes between rival units of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force. The fighting erupted on January 15 after the government rejected demands for a 100-percent pay increase for the army. The mutinous troops have set January 24 as the deadline for meeting their demands.

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