



communiqué

N°:
No.: 193

December 17, 1985.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS MURDER IN GUATEMALA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today expressed shock and outrage at the brutal death of Beatriz Eugenia Barrios Marroquin whose body was found in Palin, Guatemala on December 13.

As she had been under threat and previously kidnapped, Mrs. Barrios Marroquin had asked for Canadian refugee status at the Canadian Embassy on November 29. This request was processed and a Minister's Permit was granted to her on December 6. But before she could depart, she required a Guatemalan passport and a USA visa. These were obtained by December 10.

She was kidnapped by unidentified assailants on that day and the Canadian Government and others made strenuous representations to the Guatemalan Government to locate her and to ensure her safety.

Mr. Clark said that this tragic incident underlines the need for Guatemala to return to democratic civilian control. He welcomed President-elect Vinicio Cerezo's strong condemnation of the incident and his hope that there would be an end to violence in Guatemala.