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ELECTIONS IN PANAMA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today characterized the May 7 elections in Panama as being seriously flawed. Mr. Clark referred to disturbing reports from Panama of incidents of intimidation and coercion, and noted that difficulties had been encountered by foreign observers, including Canadian journalists, in entering Panama before the elections. The failure of Panamanian authorities so far to release election results has created a volatile situation.

Canada has encouraged the development of representative institutions throughout Latin America, and has welcomed the growing number of countries in the region which have chosen the democratic path. In this case the Panamanian people have not had the opportunity to exercise their franchise under conditions that reflected their democratic rights.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

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