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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

WELCOMES RETURN TO DEMOCRACY IN CHILE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today welcomed the return of Chile to the democratic community of nations following the December 14 presidential election. This election marked the peaceful return of democracy to Chile after sixteen years of military rule.

"This election is a major victory for democracy in Latin America," stated Mr. Clark, "and reflects the desire of the Chilean people to build a democratic society, a desire shared by all Canadians, and especially those of Chilean origin. I look forward to working closely with the new government".

Patricio Aylwin, a veteran Christian Democratic politician and leader of a broad coalition of political parties, won a decisive victory in yesterday's balloting. He will be inaugurated president on March 11.

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