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STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE
D'ÉTAT AUX
AFFAIRES
EXTÉRIEURES.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
THE HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP

CYPRUS

The Government has been following closely developments in Cyprus with the aim of preventing the situation from deteriorating further and of contributing to a peaceful solution. In doing so we have had the following considerations in mind:

1. Canada has always supported the independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus which, among other things, is a member of the Commonwealth. We therefore deplore the violent overthrow earlier this week of the democratically elected government of Cyprus. It is our desire that a constitutionally valid government be returned to power on the Island and we will seek to contribute in any appropriate way we can to this objective.
2. There seems to be no reasonable doubt that officers of the Greek Armed Forces serving with the Cypriot National Guard played an active part in the movement to overthrow President Makarios. For its part the Greek Government has publicly stated that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Cyprus should be maintained. We consider it important that this statement be reflected by concrete action, particularly the recall by the Greek Government of its officers attached to the Cypriot National Guard, so that there would be no question of further Greek involvement in what the Athens Government has described as the internal affairs of Cyprus.
3. If the crisis that has developed on Cyprus is to be resolved in a peaceful manner, it seems to us that, in addition to the efforts of other interested governments and organizations, this will require close cooperation on the part of the United Kingdom, Greek and Turkish governments which, under the London and Zurich Agreements of 1959, have a formal responsibility for the preservation of Cyprus' independence. Among other things, these governments have specific treaty obligations to consult together in circumstances such as those that now prevail on Cyprus and we strongly urge that all three governments participate in such consultations without further delay. Only in this way can the danger of unilateral action, which could have such serious consequences, be effectively avoided.
4. The Canadian Government appreciates the moderation and restraint exercised to date by the Turkish/Cypriot community in Cyprus and the Government of Turkey, which are understandably concerned about recent developments on the Island.

It is our hope this moderation and restraint will be continued while efforts are being made by various elements of the international community to find a peaceful and acceptable solution to the Cyprus problem.

5. We are following closely the Security Council's discussions of the Cyprus problem that are currently underway. Although we are not members of the Security Council we have a special interest and concern with regard to the problem because of Canada's role in the UN peacekeeping force there. Since the continuing usefulness of this role will depend on the restoration of constitutional government on the Island, we will want to contribute in any way we can to any initiatives the Security Council may decide to undertake.
6. The Cyprus situation is one in which NATO as a whole has immediate and direct concern and our Permanent Representative in Brussels is participating in the consultations which are taking place with the representatives of other member governments, including the Turkish and Greek Governments, to promote a peaceful resolution of the problem.
7. The Government has naturally been concerned not only about the welfare of Canadian UN forces on Cyprus but also about that of other Canadians there and we have been gratified that to date there has been no reason to believe they are in any imminent danger. Nevertheless our Ambassador in Tel Aviv, who is responsible for Cyprus, has been instructed to recommend to Canadians who have no pressing business on the Island that they should probably leave when they are in a position to do so. This precautionary step has been taken because if the situation should deteriorate the Government's ability to assist them could well be limited. It is our hope that normal commercial means of travel will shortly be restored but in the event this should not happen or that the situation should worsen, we have made contingency plans through the Department of National Defence for the evacuation of Canadians by means of Canadian Armed Forces aircraft.