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CANADA TO SEND OBSERVERS TO SECOND ROUND OF ELECTIONS IN EL SALVADOR

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the Canadian Government has accepted the invitation of the Government of El Salvador to send observers to the second round of the Presidential elections on Sunday, May 6. Mr. MacEachen said that he has again asked Mr. R. Gordon Fairweather, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, to head the work of the Canadian observer team. As Mr. Fairweather cannot go to El Salvador for the observation period, May 2 to 9, Mr. Warren R. Bailie, Chief Election Officer of Ontario, has been invited to join the two other observers who had previously accompanied Mr. Fairweather for the March 25 elections, Messrs. R.A. Gould, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer for Canada, and Mr. F.M. Filleul, Canadian Ambassador to El Salvador.

Mr. MacEachen indicated that the decision to send observers to El Salvador for the second round of the elections was consistent with his decision to send qualified observers to the first round, since they had been able to make an objective and factual report to the Government. Mr. MacEachen expressed the hope that the election will lead to greater stability and more representative and responsible government in El Salvador.

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The Canadian observers will be the guests of the Central Electoral Council of El Salvador and will be given full support facilities by the Council to allow verification of the process in its different phases, such as registration, voting, computation of votes, transmission of returns and announcement of results. The official Canadian observers will evaluate the process and report back to Mr. MacEachen, who will then make their report public.