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McDOUGALL WELCOMES PROGRESS ON PEACE IN EL SALVADOR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today expressed satisfaction with the progress made towards a partial peace accord in El Salvador.

On Saturday, April 27, the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) agreed to a package of constitutional reforms. On Monday, April 29, the package was passed unanimously by the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador. In order for the package of reforms to become law, it must be passed by two consecutive Legislative Assemblies. Therefore, the package must now go before the next Assembly. The previous Assembly ended session April 30, 1991. The new Assembly, whose members were elected in March 1991, begins today.

"I am gratified to learn that a highly significant set of reforms democratizing the Salvadoran armed forces, judiciary, and electoral system has passed its first step," stated Mrs. McDougall.

"Canada trusts that the incoming Legislative Assembly will pass and implement the reforms as quickly as possible. In addition, we continue to urge both the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN to agree to an immediate ceasefire and to an end to the 11-year civil conflict as soon as possible."

Mrs. McDougall also noted with satisfaction that in addition to the reform package, Saturday's agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN had established an independent Salvadoran Commission to investigate serious human rights violations and renewed a commitment to allow a United Nations human rights observer mission (ONUSAL) to operate in El Salvador.

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