

SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON GUINEA-BISSAU
November 29, 2000
CANADIAN INTERVENTION

Madame la Présidente,

Nous nous félicitons de votre présence aujourd'hui parmi nous, alors que les Pays-Bas approchent de la fin de leur présidence du Conseil de sécurité, qu'ils ont assurée de manière très efficace au mois de novembre, et de leur mandat au Conseil de sécurité.

Le Canada considère que cette réunion sur la Guinée-Bissau intervient à point nommé.

Les événements qui ont eu lieu la semaine dernière ont montré à quel point les institutions démocratiques sont fragiles et combien il importe que le Conseil maintienne son engagement dans les efforts que déploie la Guinée-Bissau pour renforcer la paix et consolider la démocratie.

Canada is pleased with the return to calm in Guinea-Bissau.

We are concerned by reports of the participation of Senegalese rebel troops in last week's failed coup attempted by former General Mané.

Canada joins the Council in reiterating its support for the democratically-elected Government of Guinea-Bissau, and urges the Government to continue its efforts for the strengthening of democratic institutions, including the subordination of the military to civilian rule, and the consolidation of peace in the country.

It is imperative that the members of the former military junta recognize the authority of the democratically-elected government.

Any bid to use the military to undermine its authority can only have destabilizing effects for Guinea Bissau and the region and are harmful to the peace process.

The continuing commitment of the international donor community and the viability of its efforts furthermore depend on a climate of stability prevailing in Guinea-Bissau.

In this regard, Canada stresses the importance of the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process in Guinea Bissau as a key element for promoting sustainable democracy and stability in the country.

Canada has consistently supported the work of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea Bissau towards the consolidation of peace and democracy and the promotion of respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The Economic Community of West African States and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries are also to be commended for their contribution to these efforts.

We urge the parties to work together in moving towards post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction, and restoring lasting peace and stability in the country for the benefit of the people of Guinea Bissau.

Thank you, Madam President.