

Subject: A05089-2007 IN REPLY TO YOUR EMAIL OF FEBRUARY 28, 2007
From: <min.dfaitmaeci@international.gc.ca>
Date: Fri, 22 Jun 2007 08:40:52 -0400
To: <steven_s@yorku.ca>
CC: <dawnpaley@gmail.com>, <info@rightsaction.org>, <rodochan9@yahoo.com>

Mr. Steven Schnoor
steven_s@yorku.ca

c.c. dawnpaley@gmail.com
info@rightsaction.org
rodochan9@yahoo.com

Dear Mr. Schnoor:

Thank you for your email of February 28, 2007, co-signed by Ms. Dawn Paley and Messrs. Grahame Russell and James Rodriguez, regarding comments attributed to the Ambassador of Canada to Guatemala, Mr. Kenneth Cook, about your documentary film on the Guatemalan mining exploration operations of Skye Resources, a Canadian mining company. I regret the delay in replying to you.

Canada expects and actively encourages Canadian companies to act with the utmost responsibility when operating abroad. Canada promotes respect for human rights and understands the complexities of issues relating to land rights.

Through its Embassy in Guatemala, the Government of Canada actively encourages open and constructive dialogue among all stakeholders in order to promote a well-informed and healthy debate. In addition, Canada encourages appropriate consultation and discussion with respect to any concerns that exist related to extractive industries. The defence of human rights and the consolidation of democratic advances are top priorities for Canada in Guatemala. Mr. Cook is fully apprised of these priorities and continues to emphasize them on a daily basis.

As part of a comprehensive and balanced engagement with Guatemala, Canada will continue to promote human rights, democracy and good governance as well as socially and environmentally responsible Canadian investment in that country.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and express your concerns.

Sincerely,

Peter G. MacKay
Minister of Foreign Affairs