

# News Release

Department of  
External  
Affairs



# Communiqué

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## MINISTER CLARK SUMMONS AMBASSADORS OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that he has summoned the Ambassadors and High Commissioners resident in Ottawa of the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), to a meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 1989. Mr. Clark will be urging the Governments of the Organization to engage themselves in a search for a pragmatic solution to the Rushdie affair and the elimination of the threats to the author and his publishers.

This appeal by Mr. Clark reflects Canada's interest in promoting a solution to the Rushdie affair, which is jeopardizing both the fundamental right to freedom of expression and the principle of mutual respect among people of different cultural backgrounds.

The OIC is comprised of forty-five Muslim or partially Muslim states, in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The Organization was established in 1971 and inter alia seeks to create a suitable atmosphere for the promotion of cooperation and understanding among member states and other countries. Twenty-five of the member states of the OIC have embassies resident in Ottawa.

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures

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