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REVISED MIDDLE EAST TRAVEL ADVICE ISSUED TO CANADIANS

External Affairs and International Trade Canada today issued revised travel advice to Canadian citizens living in or visiting the Middle East. The advice reflects the Department's assessment that tensions in the Middle East may increase in the first part of January.

The travel advice revises one issued early in the present crisis and recommends that dependants and other non-essential personnel, whether resident or travelling in the region, examine the possibility of departure from certain countries early in January, if tension does not abate.

The Department is issuing such advice at this time in order to provide Canadians with the best possible information, as far in advance as possible, to help them to decide on their travel plans for the holiday season and the New Year. It does not reflect a belief that the situation has deteriorated in the last few days. Travellers should keep in close contact with events and keep their plans under review.

The countries concerned are Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan and the Eastern Province and Central Region of Saudi Arabia, including Riyadh. Residents in and visitors to other countries of the region, in particular Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, other areas of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Iran and Israel, as well as the Israeli-occupied territories, are being advised to exercise additional caution and to keep in close contact with the nearest Canadian Embassy.