

July 20, 1974

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT CONCERNING CANADIANS IN CYPRUS

The consular officers whom we have sent to the Island, with help from our UN Contingent, are doing everything they can to assist the estimated 150 remaining Canadian civilians who were not able to leave yesterday.

A warning was given on Thursday to Canadians who had no compelling reason to remain in Cyprus, to leave the Island as quickly as possible. Since then, the BBC and British radio facilities in Cyprus have been broadcasting warnings to UK and other foreign tourists. From the messages we have received, it is clear that Canadian British and other components of the UN Force in Cyprus are taking care of foreign tourists. A report from our own DND indicates that 300 of them including Canadians have gathered at the Canadian contingent base camp near Nicosia.

Plans are now being put into effect to provide military aircraft, since the commercial flights are not available. At present, two Canadian Armed Forces aircraft are standing by in Cairo for this purpose.

My Department is receiving numerous calls from persons who are worried about friends and relatives in Cyprus, in Greece and in Turkey. The information concerning these persons is being passed to our personnel in Cyprus and to our Embassies in Athens and Ankara. As soon as specific information about persons is available it will be relayed to families and friends in Canada. Because of the pressure being placed on communications facilities, I would not expect, however, that messages of this nature will be available for some time.