



# communiqué

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## CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

The Minister for External Relations, the Honourable Monique Vézina, announced today that, with regard to the nuclear accident at Chernobyl, the latest information available to the Government warrants an update about measures recommended to Canadians living and travelling overseas.

Technical problems at the Chernobyl nuclear plant and uncertainty as to the exact nature of the situation continues. Canadians are advised to avoid a 400 km radius of Kiev and to make arrangements to leave the area if they are there. The levels of radiation in Warsaw, Moscow and Bucharest have dropped, and Canadians are no longer advised not to travel there. Dependents of Embassy Warsaw employees who were evacuated to Lahr, West Germany, are expected to return to Warsaw during the weekend. Canadians are therefore advised that with the exception of the Kiev vicinity, travel to other areas in Europe is considered safe.

The Government is continuing to extend special consular assistance to Canadians in the affected region. The Canadian Consul from the Moscow Embassy, Hector Cowan, who has been in Kiev for the past week, has assisted all those Canadians who decided to leave. He has kept all Canadians in the area informed about the Government's advice. At present, several Canadian students have decided not to accept the Government's recommendation and assistance but rather to stay in the Kiev region

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