



communiqué

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STATUS OF JERUSALEM

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, announced today that Canada was officially expressing its concern to the Israeli authorities about the action recently taken by Israel with respect to Jerusalem. The law passed by the Knesset on July 30 concerning that city is unhelpful to the peace process, particularly at a time when efforts are being made to achieve an agreement on interim autonomy measures for the Palestinians.

Canada does not recognize the validity of Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem. We believe that the issue of Jerusalem, one of the most sensitive in the Arab-Israeli dispute, must be settled by negotiation in the context of an overall peace settlement. It cannot be decided by unilateral actions. Canada will maintain its present policy and practices regarding East Jerusalem including the avoidance of official contacts with the Israeli authorities there.