

PRESS RELEASE

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CANADA AS PROTECTING POWER FOR BRITAIN IN THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

OTTAWA, Dec. 18- The Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, confirmed on his return to Ottawa that at the request of the British Government, Canada has agreed to assume responsibility as Protecting Power for British interests in the United Arab Republic following the break in diplomatic relations between Britain and the UAR.

Mr. Martin said: " To the fullest extent possible with the limited number of administrative personnel available, the Canadian Government will endeavour to deal expeditiously with the practical problems that will arise. We deeply regret this rupture in normal diplomatic relations between Britain and the UAR, and we hope that our action will help to minimize its effects, as well as contribute to the eventual restoration of normal international cooperation between the two countries."