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SITUATION IN LEBANON

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, today expressed grave concern at the recent outbreak of violence in Lebanon. The large number of reported cases of injury and death of innocent civilians is particularly distressing and must not be allowed to continue.

Canada calls upon all parties to the conflict to refrain from further hostilities and respect the cease-fire. Canada also urges the parties to respect the duly constituted authorities, to negotiate an end to their differences and to work toward restoring stability in Lebanon.

These points are being brought to the attention of the Lebanese and Syrian governments as well as to others concerned.

Dr. MacGuigan announced that if an appeal for assistance to Lebanon were launched by an internationally recognized humanitarian organization, sympathetic consideration would be given to any request for assistance from Canada.