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## KUWAIT RECONSTRUCTION MEASURES

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today announced measures to help Canadian companies take part in the reconstruction of Kuwait now that the Gulf War is over.

Special units have been established in External Affairs and International Trade Canada and in the federal government's Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) to help Canadian businesses participate in the reconstruction effort. Mr. Crosbie and the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, are taking steps to introduce Canadian firms to the Kuwaiti government.

Mr. Crosbie said Canadian firms possess much of the expertise that will be useful in helping the Kuwaitis rebuild their country's infrastructure. "Canadian companies can make a vital contribution to repair the damage inflicted on Kuwait," the Minister said. "Overall, the potential is enormous."

In a recent meeting with Kuwaiti officials, Mr. Crosbie was briefed on the Kuwaiti government's reconstruction plan. Provision of essential services, including water, sanitation, electricity and communications, as well as the oil and gas industry, are Kuwait's priorities. Further opportunities will also exist in the educational and medical sectors and in rebuilding the commercial and housing infrastructure. Mr. Crosbie emphasized that previous experience in the Middle East will be a definite asset in pursuing potential contracts.

Mr. Clark is travelling in the Middle East this week to discuss the situation in the region with a number of the countries concerned. He will take the opportunity of his meetings in Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to encourage his counterparts to look favourably upon Canadian participation in reconstruction.

Several other initiatives are also being undertaken by the Department to introduce Canadian companies and capabilities