

Current Canadian Position

The Canadian Government has stressed the importance of achieving a negotiated settlement to the conflict and has expressed the hope that Iran will accept the Iraqi proposal. It has condemned the attacks on civilian population centres and the use of chemical weapons and has urged the two belligerents to accept the recommendations of the UN Experts Report on the treatment of prisoners of war.

In November 1986 it was reported that Pratt and Whitney had delivered helicopter parts to Iran which could be used for military purposes. This was made possible by the new Export Policy, announced in September, which modified the regulations concerning the export of strategic material to certain countries, including Iran.

Parliamentary Comment

Questions were asked in the Commons during November and December 1986 about Pratt and Whitney's export of helicopter parts to Iran. The opposition questioned the claim that these were only for commercial use. On 18 November, the deputy Prime Minister, Don Mazankowski, gave a reply which summed up Conservative policy on this matter:

...we were assured by Pratt & Whitney that the parts in question were for civilian commercial use. That undertaking was reaffirmed in a letter to the Canadian Government. Furthermore, on September 10 the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced a new export control policy and drew attention to the fact that the area of helicopters is one that provides some difficulty because of the interchangeability of the use of helicopters from commercial to military service. As a result, the Minister drew that question to our