The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In the desire to strengthen relations and ties of friendship between Canada and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the governments of the two countries have agreed to establish diplomatic relations, at a level of ambassador.

Mr. J. Gignac, at present Canadian Ambassador in Beirut, has been appointed Ambassador to Saudi Arabia on a non-resident basis. A biography of Mr. Gignac is attached.

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