



news release

Date April 15, 1991

No. 91

Date

For release

PRIVATE SECTOR LIAISON GROUP ON KUWAIT RECONSTRUCTION

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced the members of the Private Sector Liaison Group on Kuwait Reconstruction. The group will hold its inaugural meeting tomorrow, April 16, in Ottawa.

"This group of senior Canadian executives represents the sectors of Canadian business most involved in Kuwait and the Middle East. Above all, these are people active and experienced in the region," Mr. Crosbie said.

"Essentially, I am asking the liaison group to do two things. First, I want their advice on the design and function of the programs we offer to Canadian exporters and potential exporters to Kuwait. Second, I am asking them, as leaders in their respective communities, to share their knowledge and advice with other Canadian business people interested in the region."

Dr. Abdul Hadi al-Awadi, Director of the Kuwait Emergency and Recovery Program, and Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Al-Zuhair, will join the group for informal discussions following the meeting. Mr. Clark will review his experience as head of the first Ministerially-led business mission to Kuwait in March. Together with the members of the liaison group they will review the situation in Kuwait and the ways in which Canadian goods and services can help in the reconstruction effort.

"My department has received more than 6,000 calls from companies and individuals seeking advice on opportunities in the area or asking to be included in our computer data bank. As well, more than 3,200 Canadian business people have attended the seven seminars we have provided across Canada on Kuwait reconstruction. The demand is enormous, and many Canadians will certainly win contracts in the region. However, we continue to stress that this is no bonanza; there