

Canadian Embassy officials in Baghdad arranged for today's contingent of Canadians to leave Kuwait and Baghdad for Frankfurt on an Iraqi Airways 747 chartered by the U.S. Special provisions have also been made for other Canadians to leave via regularly scheduled Iraqi airways flights between Baghdad and Amman. Of those Canadians who had previously been unable to leave, only ten remain, six in Iraq and four in Kuwait. It is expected that they will obtain the necessary exit permits within the next few days.

All members of the Canadian Embassy in Kuwait who were temporarily relocated to Baghdad on or prior to October 19 departed on today's flight to Frankfurt. Remaining in Baghdad are five members of the Canadian Embassy to Iraq.

The Canadians arriving in Europe tonight on the special Iraqi Airways 747 charter will stay overnight in Frankfurt. Many will depart Frankfurt Monday morning for Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. They are expected to arrive tomorrow evening, where they will be met and assisted with onward travel arrangements by Canadian Embassy officials. Some of the newly released Canadians plan to spend the holiday season with relatives in other parts of the Middle East or Europe before returning to Canada.

For more information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
External Affairs and International Trade Canada  
(613) 995-1874