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CANADIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, made the following statement in the House of Commons today, October 24:

"Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, announced in Westminster that Britain was breaking diplomatic relations with Syria as a result of evidence produced in a court case relating to terrorism. The Government of Canada fully supports the action of Great Britain in this regard. I want to indicate to the House that today I have been in touch with our Ambassador in Damascus and called him home for consultations. I have arranged to speak to Sir Geoffrey Howe later today and will keep the House apprised of other action we might consider".

Subsequent to this statement Mr. Clark spoke with Sir Geoffrey Howe who expressed his government's appreciation for Canada's support. Sir Geoffrey informed Mr. Clark that the British Government would be providing Canada with additional information respecting this matter.

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