



NO. 176

August 18, 1990

## IRAQI THREATS TO FOREIGN NATIONALS UNACCEPTABLE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today expressed grave concern over recent statements by the Government of Iraq which constitute specific threats against the health and security of foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait.

"It is outrageous that Canadians and others who went to Iraq in good faith to participate in the economic development of that country should not only be refused permission to leave, but also threatened with detention and restrictions on food and medical supplies," stated Mr. Clark. "Such behaviour is contrary to all accepted rules and customs that govern treatment of foreign nationals and is unacceptable."

Mr. Clark reiterated that Canada holds the Iraqi Government totally responsible for the safety and well being of Canadians in Iraq and Kuwait.

Mr. Clark welcomed the emergency meeting today of the U.N. Security Council and underlined that Canada will support any and all U.N. actions to safeguard the lives and security of foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait. Canada has urged a number of non-aligned members of the Security Council to work for early and unanimous adoption of an effective resolution.

"We call upon all Security Council members to show solidarity in this humane effort to spare innocent civilians from harm in a situation totally beyond their control," said Mr. Clark.

-30-

For further information, media representatives should contact:

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