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LEBANON: FORMAL PROTEST TO THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced that, under instructions, the Canadian Ambassador to Israel today delivered a formal note of protest to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs because of actions by the Israeli Defence Forces contrary to the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations.

In the past few days the IDF have repeatedly searched the vehicle of the Canadian Ambassador to Lebanon, despite his objections, when crossing between East and West Beirut.

In its protest, the Canadian Government insisted that the Israeli authorities take immediate effective measures to prevent any recurrence of these incidents.

The Ambassador also protested that on two recent occasions the building which houses the Official Residence of our Ambassador in Beirut, or the Residence itself, was hit by Israeli shells.

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook urgently to investigate the incidents.