



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

No:
No.: 7

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: JANUARY 20, 1981

AMERICAN HOSTAGES' RELEASE IN IRAN: CANADIAN REACTION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, today welcomed the safe release by the Iranian authorities of the 52 Americans who have been held hostage in Iran since November 4, 1979.

In expressing his relief that the long ordeal of the hostages and their families was now over, the Secretary of State for External Affairs noted that this happy outcome is a vindication of international law, which Canada and other countries have sought to uphold. He congratulated the government of the USA on the patience and wisdom it has shown in the negotiations for the hostages' release, and the government of Algeria for acting so effectively as a go-between in the final months.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs confirmed that the Government would shortly review all those measures to curtail relations with Iran which have been implemented since the hostage-taking began. He noted that at the time a number of these measures were announced, on May 22, 1980, the Government indicated it would act to remove the restrictions then being imposed once the hostages were released. The question of re-opening the Canadian Embassy in Tehran will also be examined.

The termination of sanctions would in no way constitute a change in Canada's wish to remain strictly neutral in the conflict between Iran and Iraq, or in Canada's support for the UN Security Council Resolution calling for mediation between the two sides.

The Canadian Government hopes that these developments will make possible the full resumption of normal relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the near future.