

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

Nº: No.:

148

October 8, 1985.

STATEMENT ON THE HIJACKING OF THE "ACHILLE LAURO"

The Government of Canada strongly condemns the hijacking of the passenger liner "Achille Lauro" by Palestinians, and the putting at risk of the lives of its passengers and crew.

Terrorism, wherever it occurs and whatever its alleged motivations, is to be deeply deplored. In the context of Middle East problems, it has repeatedly been an especially sordid element in the senseless pattern of violence and retribution which has plagued the region for decades.

The Government appeals to all concerned to act with restraint and responsibility to bring about rapidly the release of these innocent victims of a conflict which in the end can only be resolved by peaceful means rather than by resort to force.