

Concerned by the growing escalation of hostilities in the Iran-Iraq war, the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, reiterated today the government's longstanding position and called for an end to the conflict. Mr. MacEachen called on both parties to make use of the good offices of the United Nations Secretary General whose efforts for peace Canada strongly endorses.

The Government of Canada is very concerned about the reports of violations of human rights in the pursuit of this conflict and has made its views known to the parties. It strongly supports the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to alleviate the human suffering caused by the war.

Concerning the most recent reports, the government considers the use of children in war repugnant and calls upon Iran to cease immediately any such practices which may exist. Canadian Representatives have raised this issue at the current session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

Canada is also strongly opposed to any use of chemical weapons. Since 1980 it has supported and co-sponsored a series of resolutions in the UN aimed at creating international verification techniques. Concerning present allegations of use, the government calls upon Iraq to ensure that there are no violations of the Geneva Protocol which prohibits the use of chemical weapons.