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## **CANADA WELCOMES RELEASE OF CANADIANS FROM IRAQ AND KUWAIT**

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, expressed great satisfaction about the departure today of the majority of those remaining Canadians who were being held in Iraq and Kuwait against their wishes. The Canadian Embassy in Baghdad confirmed that a specially chartered Iraqi Airways 747 left Baghdad at 21:00 hrs local time (13:00 EST) and arrived in Frankfurt at 00:10 hrs local time (18:10 EST) with 30 Canadians and two non-Canadian spouses on board.

"I most heartily commend the courage and endurance of our Canadians held in Kuwait and Iraq during these last difficult months. I am extremely gratified that all those Canadians who have been illegally detained in Kuwait and Iraq can now be reunited with their families and loved ones during this holiday season, a season which traditionally symbolizes peace and good will for all," stated the Minister.

"This release is definitely a positive step -- the first fruit of the unequivocal message which the international community sent to Saddam Hussein by adopting UN Security Council Resolution 678 ten days ago calling for full compliance with all the previous relevant UN resolutions." Mr. Clark emphasized, however, that a number of other resolutions are outstanding, notably Resolution 660 which calls for complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. He urged Iraqi authorities to seize the opportunity provided by the present "Pause for Peace" to comply fully with the remaining resolutions.