

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, The Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced in Ottawa today that the Canadian Government has decided to approach the Saudi Arabian Government with a view to opening a resident Canadian Embassy in Jeddah in the next few months.

This decision is an expression of the Government's policy of strengthening Canada's representation in the Middle East, where, in addition to the continuing pursuit of general foreign policy objectives, there is at this time an increasing Canadian interest in the field of energy.

The Government will shortly be considering the opening of other Canadian missions in various parts of the world, including the Middle East, for the next few years following the implementation of the current programs.