



# communiqué

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## CANADA'S AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA RETURNS TO DAMASCUS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that the Canadian Ambassador to Syria, Mr. Jacques Noiseux, will return to his post in Damascus on Thursday, February 19.

Mr. Noiseux was recalled to Ottawa for consultations in October following the Hindawi trial verdict in London. The recall was a strong signal to the Syrian Government about the unacceptability of involvement by its officials in such incidents.

The return of the Ambassador will provide an opportunity to restate forcefully and directly Canadian views on state-sponsored terrorism; Mr. Noiseux will carry a stern message about this important issue and about its implications for Canada's relations with Syria.

Canadian relations with Syria will not improve while Syria retains its identification with international terrorism. The presence in Damascus of the Canadian Ambassador will permit Mr. Noiseux to deal first-hand with Canadian interests in Syria and to respond to developments in Lebanon, to which he is dually accredited.