

Secretary of
State for
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Secrétaire
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Affaires
extérieures

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GULF CRISIS: SITUATION REPORT

As of midday Kuwaiti time (GMT plus 4 hours), the Canadian Embassy in Kuwait had not been surrounded by Iraqi troops although there are confirmed reports that some Western embassies have been. Communication with the Canadian Embassy in Kuwait is intermittent.

Canada has consistently rejected the Iraqi instruction to close the Embassy in Kuwait. The Canadian Government has repeatedly told Iraq that Canada is not closing its Embassy in Kuwait and continues to be there to protect Canadians. Canada has insisted that the Iraqi authorities respect the diplomatic status of Canadian diplomats.

Five Canadians, headed by Charge d'Affaires William Bowden, and 17 locally-engaged employees remain at their post in Kuwait to assist the Canadian community. This consular team has been strengthened by a consular officer from the Canadian Embassy in Baghdad who arrived in Kuwait yesterday.

Canadians in both Kuwait and Iraq are not believed to be in any immediate danger. There are about 600 Canadians in Kuwait and 200 in Iraq. Canada continues to reiterate to the Iraqi authorities that Iraq meet its international obligations and permit Canadians to leave Kuwait and Iraq.

A Task Force at External Affairs and International Trade Canada continues to operate on a 24-hour basis (613) 992-6316 to receive calls and enquiries from concerned family members.

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