



communiqué

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SITUATION IN LEBANON

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs announced to-day that the Canadian Government is following with great attention and concern the evolving situation in Lebanon which has been characterized over the past few days by an increasing level of violence. The Government is distressed by the numerous casualties and hopes that current mediation efforts will be successful. The Government believes that President Gemayel's calls for a national dialogue among all Lebanese offer the best chance of emerging from the current impasse and reinforcing the authority of the Lebanese government.

The Government is consulting closely with other concerned countries to determine the most appropriate measures to ensure the security of Canadian nationals in Lebanon. The Department of External Affairs is in contact with the Canadian Embassy in Beirut which has not received any reports of casualties among the members of the Canadian community in Lebanon. The Embassy will provide all possible consular services to Canadian nationals in Lebanon as local conditions permit.

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