

The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, P.C., M.P.
Secretary of State for External Affairs



Le très hon. Joe Clark, C.P., député
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures

OTTAWA, Canada
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Dear John,

As the year draws to a close, I wanted to update you and your Committee on recent developments in the Gulf crisis.

Much of our discussion at the last Committee session focussed on the impact of sanctions on Iraq and the relative lack of sensitivity in the Iraqi leadership to the shortages and problems created by the international embargo. We are aware of no significant change in this situation since that time: the civilian sectors of the economy are being affected more severely than the privileged military; rationing continues; prices of foodstuffs and consumer goods continue to rise; and more non-essential industries have been forced to reduce or cease production. Most important, international cooperation in imposing and policing the embargo is proving very effective, and sanction-breaking remains insignificant. As you are aware, Canada is playing a leading role in implementing sanctions, and Canadian ships have intercepted 1,597 vessels in the Gulf as of today. This represents 25% of all such interceptions carried out by the multinational force.

However, in spite of the fact that these are the most comprehensive and effective sanctions ever applied by the international community, we must recognize that there are no signs whatsoever that they are having their intended impact of persuading the Iraqi government to comply with Security Council resolutions. As we have discussed before, it is evident that the Iraqi leadership appears to be far less concerned about the welfare of its people than in holding on to its ill-gotten territorial gains.

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The Honourable John Bosley
Chairman,
Standing Committee on External Affairs and International
Trade
House of Commons
Ottawa

c.c. All Members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs
and International Trade