



communiqué

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IRAN - LIFTING OF CANADIAN SANCTIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced today that with effect from March 3 the Government had lifted the sanctions which were imposed against Iran because of that country's violation of international law in seizing the USA Embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979, and holding its staff as hostages for fourteen months.

At the same time, the Honourable Herb Gray, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, announced that this decision includes the cancellation of the export embargo against Iran effected under the Export and Import Permits Act.

The decision to lift sanctions follows the release of the hostages on January 20, 1981, and action by other states, notably the USA (which last week publicly and formally accepted the Agreement with Iran for the release of the hostages), the European Economic Community (EEC) member states, Japan, Norway and Australia, to cancel their sanctions. However, the Government has not yet given any consideration to the reactivation of the Canadian Embassy in Tehran, and has no intention of doing so in the near future. Among other considerations, it will wish to reassure itself about the safety of the Canadian staff who return there before taking this step.

The Government has had an opportunity to review with the USA administration the treatment of the hostages, and is continuing to consult with other like-minded countries on the means to deter future acts of hostage-taking.