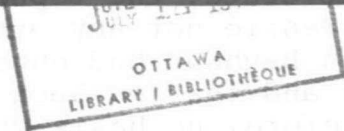


DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

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CANADIAN DIPLOMAT IN BAGHDAD DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA

The Department of External Affairs has been advised that the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has declared Mr. W. A. McKenzie, First Secretary and Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at the Canadian Embassy in Baghdad, persona non grata. While no explanation or justification was given for this action, it is presumably in retaliation for the Canadian Government having requested an Iraqi Second Secretary, Mr. Abdul Latif M. Al-Niaimi, to leave Canada. Mr. Al-Niaimi left on June 20.

Mr. Al-Niaimi's departure from Canada was requested because he had been engaged in questionable intelligence activities similar in nature to those carried on by the former Minister Plenipotentiary at the Iraqi Embassy, Mr. Abu Al-Khail, whose departure from Canada was requested in August 1977. In particular, Mr. Al-Niaimi is known to have paid out sums of money for reports on individuals in the Canadian Kurdish community and his agents have been involved in efforts to disrupt Kurdish organizations. In requesting his departure, the Canadian Government reiterated its position that the carrying on of such intelligence activities, whether or not directed against the Canadian Government, is incompatible with the diplomatic status of personnel serving with an embassy in Ottawa.

The Canadian Government has conveyed to the Government of Iraq through the Iraqi Ambassador in Ottawa, a strong protest at its arbitrary and unjustified action in expelling the Canadian Chargé d'Affaires. In a diplomatic note, given to the Ambassador on July 7, the Department of External Affairs rejected in principle any suggestion that retaliation in any form against Canadian personnel in