



communiqué

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WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES FROM LEBANON

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, issued the following statement today concerning the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

The Canadian people and government have followed events in Lebanon with great attention and concern. Canada has called for withdrawal of all foreign forces and the restoration of civil authority throughout Lebanon in order to permit the Lebanese government to proceed with the essential tasks of reconstruction and national reconciliation. This call was reaffirmed by the Prime Minister in the House on May 19.

We welcome the signature of the agreement on Israeli withdrawal as an essential first step in this process and look forward to the early implementation of this agreement. We have congratulated Secretary of State Shultz for the indispensable assistance the United States government provided in securing the agreement, and for his own effective intervention in the later stages of negotiation.

We are following closely the talks now underway between the Lebanese and Syrian governments on the current situation and we share the hope for a successful conclusion of these talks in order to implement as soon as possible a withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Meanwhile, it will be important for all parties to exercise the greatest possible restraint so that tensions in the area will be reduced.