

"We are giving this matter high priority," Mr. Crosbie said, adding that special units have been established in External Affairs and International Trade Canada and in the Canadian Commercial Corporation to help guide Canadian firms in the reconstruction effort. Other measures, including seminars and incoming Kuwaiti business missions, are being planned.

"Canadian firms that have done business in the Middle East know that it takes a long-term commitment to develop a true partnership. The Government of Canada is taking the same approach, and our efforts to help Canadian business in the region will be sustained and thorough. Creation of the Private Sector Liaison Group will help ensure that we succeed."

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