



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

COMMUNIQUÉ

No: 14  
No.:

OTTAWA  
LIBRARY / BIBLIOTHÈQUE

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
RELEASE: FEBRUARY 16, 1978

ESTABLISHMENT OF CANADIAN EMBASSY IN KUWAIT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson announced today that the Canadian Government intends to open an Embassy in the State of Kuwait. Agreement has been received from the Kuwaiti Government, and a Canadian advance party will be leaving shortly to begin preparations. It is hoped that this new Embassy will be open within the next two or three months.

The decision to open a resident Embassy in Kuwait will fill a major gap in Canada's diplomatic representation in the Middle East. Kuwait and the other Emirates in that region have benefitted greatly in recent years from considerably increased oil revenues, much of which are being used for economic and social development. As an exporter of technological goods and expertise, Canada is in a good position to supply many of the requirements of these programmes and the new Embassy will be in a good location to assist Canadian businessmen seeking markets in the area.

The Embassy will initially consist of the Ambassador and one other officer as well as support personnel. While its principal function will be to assist Canadian businessmen, it will also, insofar as resources permit, perform all the normal functions of an Embassy. These will include providing consular services to the growing Canadian community in the area, issuing visas to visitors and students coming to Canada and liaising with local governments on questions such as energy policy and developments, the North-South dialogue and assistance to third countries.

The appointment of a resident Ambassador will be announced in due course. Until that time, the Canadian Ambassador to Iran will continue to be accredited to Kuwait.