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## CLARK URGES IRAQI GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW ACCESS TO KURDS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today deplored the disregard for civilian lives and welfare during the recent clashes between Iraqi Armed Forces and popular forces opposed to the Government of President Saddam Hussein. He urged the Iraqi government to allow international humanitarian organizations full access to the northern areas to help the affected civilians.

"All Canadians are distressed and concerned by the loss of life and suffering which is affecting Iraqi civilians of all backgrounds," Mr. Clark said. "It is essential that international humanitarian agencies have immediate access to all the affected areas."

Mr. Clark called on all parties to refrain from actions which could exacerbate the current suffering of Iraqi civilians. The Ambassador of Iraq has been called in to External Affairs and International Trade Canada to receive Mr. Clark's message.

Mr. Clark stated that Canada stands ready to offer immediate assistance through international humanitarian organizations that are able to help the people affected by the fighting.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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