



# communiqué

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## LETTER TO NELSON RIIS, M.P.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today released the following text of a letter to Mr. Nelson A. Riis, M.P.:

"Dear Mr. Riis:

On June 18, you asked a question in the House of Commons concerning the issuance of permits for exports of military goods to Chile. I was not able to respond to your question at the time, but undertook to give you an answer as soon as possible.

Your specific question in the House related to the export of explosive disposal suits. A permit was issued on November 5, 1984 for the exportation of three explosive disposal suits to the Chilean National Police. The permit was issued following interdepartmental consultations in which it was determined that there were not significant national security or foreign policy concerns which would preclude the issuance of a permit.

Although the explosive disposal suit falls within the definition of "body armour and flak suits" in Canada's Export Control List and is therefore formally classified as military equipment, it was not designed for military use and is used in protecting bomb disposal experts during the disarming of explosive devices. The view of the Government has been that the use of these suits does not pose any threat to civilian populations.