

News Release

Department of
External
Affairs



Communiqué

Ministère des
Affaires
extérieures

No. 257

October 24, 1989.

HOPES FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN LEBANON

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honorable Joe Clark, expressed today his satisfaction that the recent talks among Lebanese parliamentarians in Taif, Saudi Arabia, under the auspices of the Tripartite Committee of Arab Heads of State, have led to a preliminary agreement. Mr. Clark noted that this agreement on political and constitutional reforms is intended to lead to the election of a new Lebanese president and to serve as the basis for national reconciliation.

"Accepting this plan will require compromise on everyone's part" Mr. Clark stated, "and I urge those with influence in Lebanon to seize this opportunity to make progress towards the complete restoration of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity, principles which Canada continues to support".

Mr. Clark congratulated the Tripartite Committee of Heads of State for its mediation efforts. He noted in particular the important role played at the Taif Conference by the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Saud al Faisal. Mr. Clark expressed the hope that the mandate of the Tripartite Committee would be extended and he encouraged the Committee to continue its efforts.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

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