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STATEMENT BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR
IN THE IRAN/IRAQ CONFLICT

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today called upon both Iran and Iraq to implement recommendations of a U.N. mission of inquiry on their treatment of POWs.

The body of experts, appointed by the U.N. Secretary-General to examine the treatment of prisoners of war and civilian detainees in the Iran/Iraq war, unanimously concluded that the Geneva Conventions, which form the cornerstone of contemporary humanitarian law, have not been fully respected.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs gave particular emphasis to the mission's suggestion that the two parties provide unfettered access to the International Committee of the Red Cross and institute a policy of prisoner exchange so as to alleviate the suffering caused by prolonged incarceration. He also reiterated Canada's longstanding appeal for an end to the conflict urging both parties to make use of the good offices of the U.N. Secretary-General.