

# News Release

January 13, 1995

No. 7

## OUELLET TO VISIT LEBANON AND KUWAIT

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet will pay an official visit to Lebanon and Kuwait from January 25 to 28 to hold talks with Lebanese and Kuwaiti authorities and to reopen the Canadian embassy in Beirut.

"The reopening of our Beirut embassy marks a turning-point in our relations with Lebanon. It will enable Canada to strengthen its political and economic ties with this country and to play a more effective role in the reconstruction work currently under way there. As for Kuwait, it is an increasingly important economic partner for Canada. We would do well to strengthen our trade relations with this country," said Mr. Ouellet.

Mr. Ouellet will meet with a delegation of Canadian business people led by MP Mac Harb, Parliamentary Secretary to International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren, which will be in Beirut during Mr. Ouellet's visit. The delegation will examine how the Canadian private sector can participate more actively in the reconstruction of Lebanon and, for certain companies, it will work to conclude discussions already under way, leading to the signing of contracts.

A second delegation of Canadian business people will travel to Kuwait where they will meet with the Minister. Mr. Ouellet will advance their interests with the Kuwaiti authorities in a number of contracts in a wide range of sectors.

During his talks with both the Lebanese and Kuwaiti authorities, Mr. Ouellet will discuss our overall bilateral relations and international issues of common interest.

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