



communiqué

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IRAN: JOINT COMMONWEALTH STATEMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Flora MacDonald, announced that as the result of a Canadian initiative, a meeting was held today in London of Commonwealth representatives to discuss the situation in Iran. The following is the statement issued later this afternoon by High Commissioners of Commonwealth countries, speaking for the Commonwealth:

"Conscious of the Commonwealth's responsibilities to the world community, Commonwealth representatives discussed the grave situation that has arisen following the seizure of the American Embassy and some of its personnel in Tehran.

"It was their general belief that whatever the nature of the dispute between sovereign states, the taking and holding hostage of diplomatic personnel and the violation of diplomatic premises could not be justified. Such events, wherever they occur, were in violation of international law and jeopardized the fabric of international relations.

"In this context it was the wish of the overwhelming majority of Commonwealth representatives to appeal to the Government of Iran to procure the release of all the hostages and expressed the hope that the parties would resolve their differences by peaceful means within the framework of international law. They expressed their full support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General towards this end."