

News Release

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Communiqué

Secrétaire
d'État aux
Affaires
extérieures

No. 240

October 16, 1990.

PERSIAN GULF SITUATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today released copies of letters to Opposition party External Affairs critics, regarding the situation in the Persian Gulf. The texts of these letters are attached.

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For more information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874

Affaires extérieures et
Commerce extérieur Canada
External Affairs and
International Trade Canada

Canada

The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, P.C., M.P.
Secretary of State for External Affairs



Le très hon. Joe Clark, C.P., député
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures

Canada

OTTAWA, ONTARIO
K1A 0G2

October 15, 1990

Dear Lloyd:

The Iraqi Armed Forces remain in Kuwait. Canadian naval vessels, supported by Canadian air cover, continue to enforce, under the authority of United Nations Security Council resolution 665, the economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations.

While in New York recently for the General Assembly, I proposed that we allow some time to President Saddam Hussein to reflect on his situation and the will of the international community. There is, of course, no guarantee that President Hussein will take the decision to relinquish control over Kuwait, a decision which we all agree he must take. At the same time, I have also made it clear that, if President Hussein does not withdraw from Kuwait in the face of the unprecedented international consensus and under the pressure of sanctions, he must understand the willingness of the world to take further actions, including military action. Canada is prepared to consider, with its Security Council colleagues, what the next steps might be.

The Canadian objective in this crisis remains unchanged. The international community cannot allow this act of naked aggression by Iraq to stand unchecked and Canada will do its full part in finding a solution that restores the territorial integrity and authority of Kuwait. The Canadian ships and aircraft in the Persian Gulf region are a reflection of that commitment.

Obviously, events can often move very rapidly in a crisis situation and may require an immediate response. As you will recall, I declared to the House of Commons on

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The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, P.C., M.P.
House of Commons
Room 433-C, Centre Block
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

September 24 that, if circumstances in the Persian Gulf changed and if the House was sitting at that time, the Government would return to Parliament to discuss the new circumstances. I added that, if the House was not sitting, I would consult immediately with you and your colleague, Svend Robinson, External Affairs critic for the New Democratic Party.

I take this opportunity to renew that commitment of the Government to return to Parliament in the most immediate and appropriate way should events in the Persian Gulf change for the worse.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by: MINISTER
Original signé par: JOE CLARK

The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, P.C., M.P.
Secretary of State for External Affairs



Le très hon. Joe Clark, C.P., député
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures

October 16, 1990

Dear Lloyd:

This is further to my letter of October 15 and our subsequent conversation yesterday in the House.

As you know, the Government expects and prefers to work toward resolution of the Gulf Crisis within the auspices of the United Nations. We continue to work to maintain the existing consensus in the Security Council and to build on it, by seeking to secure the authority of the United Nations for further actions of whatever form or nature. That course of action remains our strong preference. As I indicated in our conversation yesterday, if the crisis becomes more acute, and Canada has to act in circumstances where consensus cannot be found in the Security Council, we would naturally advise the House immediately and, were the House not in session, would call it back as soon as possible.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J.C.", written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, P.C., M.P.,
Room 433 - Centre Block,
House of Commons,
OTTAWA, Canada,
K1A 0A6.

The Rt. Hon. Joe Clark, P. C., M. P.
Secretary of State for External Affairs



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Mr. Svend Robinson, M.P.,
Room 386 - Confederation Building,
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OTTAWA, Canada,
K1A 0A6.