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No. 122

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 21, 1973

OPENING OF CANADIAN EMBASSY IN SAUDI ARABIA

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, The Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced in Ottawa today that the Canadian Government has decided to approach the Saudi Arabian Government with a view to opening a resident Canadian Embassy in Jeddah in the next few months.

This decision is an expression of the Government's policy of strengthening Canada's representation in the Middle East, where, in addition to the continuing pursuit of general foreign policy objectives, there is at this time an increasing Canadian interest in the field of energy.

The Government will shortly be considering the opening of other Canadian missions in various parts of the world, including the Middle East, for the next few years following the implementation of the current programs.

BACKGROUND NOTE

Present Canadian representation in the Middle East and Maghreb is as follows: Ambassador James George, residing in Tehran, represents Canada in Iran and also in Kuwait, The United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman; Ambassador Paul Malone represents Canadian interests in Israel with residence in Tel Aviv. Ambassador David Stansfield, resident in Cairo, Egypt, is also accredited to Libya and the Sudan. Ambassador Jacques Gignac, resident in Beirut, is also accredited to Syria, Jordan, and Iraq, in addition to Saudi Arabia. Ambassador Henri Gaudefroy represents Canada in Tunis. Ambassador Robert Elliott represents Canada in Algiers.

2. With the opening of embassies in Rabat (announced earlier by the Government) and Jeddah, there will be eight embassies in the region at the end of 1974. The opening of another embassy in the Middle East will shortly be considered by the Government as part of its next program.