



communiqué

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LETTER TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today released the following text of a letter sent on July 5th, to Mr. Peter Barry, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Ireland:

"Dear Mr. Barry:

I have been deeply impressed by the warmth and compassion of the Irish people towards the families and friends of victims of the tragic flight of Air India 182, a majority of whom were citizens and residents of Canada.

The Irish Government extended strong sympathy and support, which I deeply appreciate. I am grateful that the Taoiseach and yourself, as well as other ministers, had the kindness to visit Cork Regional Hospital and to meet some of the relatives. I wish also to thank the Irish Government for its very rapid and cooperative response to our request for a naval vessel to work with the deep-tow hydrophone we airlifted to Cork. It is heartening that Canadians and Irishmen are cooperating so closely aboard the Aoife in the search at sea.

The city and people of Cork have shown a will to help and a sensitivity that does them honour in the hearts of all Canadians. The authorities, doctors, nurses, staff and clergy of Cork Regional Hospital and the Southern Healthboard are rendering exemplary service to humanity through their extraordinary response to human crisis. The Garda Síochána, by their dedication, sensitivity and sense of moral duty, are showing to all that they understand police service to be service to men and women who are in need of help.

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Every Canadian joins me in thanking them all. But in saying that only, I would fail to express the gratitude we feel for all the individuals and organizations contributing to helping and comforting those who grieve. I could not mention or know them all, from the volunteers at the Hospital to the Irish Tourist Board, but the deep appreciation of Canadians goes out to them all.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Clark"