



communiqué

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TWA HIJACKING: RELEASE OF HOSTAGES

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today released the text of the message he sent yesterday to USA Secretary of State George Shultz.

"Dear George,

Canadians are overjoyed to hear that the hostages from TWA Flight 847 have been released and are on their way home. We share what I am sure is your deep sense of relief that this ordeal is finally over.

We wish to congratulate you for the Administration's skillful handling of such a delicate and dangerous situation. That the release was achieved without further violence is indeed a very considerable tribute to you.

Canada has long been seriously concerned with the problem of ensuring security in the air and we have strongly pressed for a more consistent application of the 1978 Bonn Declaration on air hijacking. In the light of the events of the past several weeks, we believe that international efforts in this respect should be redoubled.

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We share your relief that American citizens have been freed; we hope, as you do, that those who are still held in Lebanon will soon be released; and we wish to underscore our resolve to work vigorously with you, and with others, to combat all threats to international air safety.

Yours sincerely,

Joe "