



communiqué

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IRAN - LIFTING OF CANADIAN SANCTIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced today that with effect from March 3 the Government had lifted the sanctions which were imposed against Iran because of that country's violation of international law in seizing the USA Embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979, and holding its staff as hostages for fourteen months.

At the same time, the Honourable Herb Gray, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, announced that this decision includes the cancellation of the export embargo against Iran effected under the Export and Import Permits Act.

The decision to lift sanctions follows the release of the hostages on January 20, 1981, and action by other states, notably the USA (which last week publicly and formally accepted the Agreement with Iran for the release of the hostages), the European Economic Community (EEC) member states, Japan, Norway and Australia, to cancel their sanctions. However, the Government has not yet given any consideration to the reactivation of the Canadian Embassy in Tehran, and has no intention of doing so in the near future. Among other considerations, it will wish to reassure itself about the safety of the Canadian staff who return there before taking this step.

The Government has had an opportunity to review with the USA administration the treatment of the hostages, and is continuing to consult with other like-minded countries on the means to deter future acts of hostage-taking.



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EAST COAST FISHERIES AND MARITIME BOUNDARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, today expressed profound disappointment and regret at the news that the United States has unilaterally abandoned the East Coast fisheries agreement signed by the Canadian and U.S. Governments in 1979. The U.S. Administration has decided to withdraw this agreement from the Senate and has requested the consent of the Senate to ratification of the Gulf of Maine boundary settlement treaty only. The two agreements had been negotiated as a package and have been before the U.S. Senate for nearly two years.

The fisheries agreement called for cooperative management of fish stocks of mutual concern; provided for the establishment of total allowable catches and allocations from these stocks to the fishermen of the two countries; and established binding procedures to resolve problems that might arise in the implementation of the agreement. The boundary settlement treaty refers the Gulf of Maine boundary dispute to the International Court of Justice.

Dr. MacGuigan and Minister LeBlanc noted that this development will come as a shock to the Canadian parliament and public, and especially to Canadian fishermen. "It will inevitably strain fisheries relations between the two countries," they said. "The East Coast fisheries agreement was a fair and balanced deal for both Canadian and U.S. fishermen. Without it, there will be a serious threat of depletion of the scallop stocks and other fishery resources of Georges Bank." The Ministers stressed their intention to pursue every means of securing the necessary conservation measures.

The Government is urgently reviewing the situation and the Prime Minister will make known Canada's concerns to President Reagan during his visit to Ottawa next week.