

# News Release

Secretary of  
State for  
External Affairs



# Communiqué

Secrétaire  
d'État aux  
Affaires  
extérieures

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## CANADIAN EMBASSY IN KUWAIT SUSPENDS OPERATIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that operations at the Canadian Embassy in Kuwait are being provisionally suspended and the remaining Canadian personnel relocated to Baghdad. Canada was among the last countries to suspend embassy operations in Kuwait.

"I join with all Canadians in commending the staff of the Canadian Embassy in Kuwait for their untiring efforts to assist our nationals and under such conditions of extreme hardship. Their dedication is in the very best traditions of the Canadian Foreign Service. It is no longer feasible for them to remain given available supplies, which are nearing exhaustion, and to stay would jeopardize their health," said Mr. Clark.

Mr. Clark noted that the Embassy is not being officially closed. Although the gates are bolted, operations are only suspended temporarily due to the current situation. A custodian has been hired in Kuwait to look after Embassy premises.

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The Embassy has assisted hundreds of Canadians and others with Canadian connections to leave Kuwait since the August 2 invasion by Iraq. Since September 10, Canadian officials have urged the approximately 20 Canadians still in the country to depart for Baghdad, where Canada's Embassy to Iraq is better placed to provide them with consular assistance. These Canadians have decided to remain in Kuwait and do so at their own risk. The Canadian Embassy in Baghdad will make every effort to provide consular protection for these individuals.

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For more information, media representatives may contact:

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