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THE HOSTAGE SITUATION IN IRAN: CANADIAN ACTION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, announced today that Canada believes that Iran's serious and continuing violation of international law in detaining the United States Embassy hostages requires a concerted international response. The Government has been in touch with like-minded countries to ensure that, to the extent possible, their actions complement one another.

Accordingly, the Government has decided to take the following measures on Iran, in parallel with the steps announced April 22 by the Foreign Ministers of the EEC member states:

- 1) No further visas will be issued to Iranian student applicants outside Canada, with the exception of a small group in Iran whose entry to Canada had been provisionally approved prior to the withdrawal of the Canadian Embassy.
- 2) The diplomatic staff of the Iranian Embassy in Ottawa will henceforth be limited to one officer, the Chargé d'Affaires. The second officer will be required to leave Canada within 72 hours.
- 3) The Government will continue its policy of not granting permits for the export of military equipment, while the Export Development Corporation will be asked to maintain in effect an earlier agreement that no new export credits should be extended to Iran until the hostage situation is satisfactorily resolved.
- 4) The Government will be indicating to the oil companies that it would be inappropriate for them to purchase Iranian oil in current circumstances.

- 5) The Government recommends that Canadian companies not enter into new export or service contracts with Iran until the hostages are released.

In concert with like-minded states, the Government will consider implementing further measures in the trade field if diplomatic approaches to be made shortly by Canada and other countries to Iran regarding the hostage situation do not yield satisfactory results by May 17.