

Minister for  
International  
Trade



Ministre du  
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extérieur

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## LIAISON GROUP TO BE FORMED ON KUWAIT RECONSTRUCTION

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today announced he will create a Private Sector Liaison Group on Kuwait Reconstruction to help co-ordinate Canada's participation in the post-war rebuilding effort. Canadian companies with experience in the Gulf will play a leading role in the Liaison Group; membership will be announced in the near future.

"Rebuilding Kuwait is a \$100- to \$300-billion enterprise," Mr. Crosbie said. "We have been assured that Canada, as a member of the Coalition force which helped liberate the country, will be recognized as such when contracts are being awarded. Still, it is essential that Canada's expertise in areas such as consulting, telecommunications, oil and gas, and transportation is properly marshalled and mobilized, and that's where the Liaison Group can play a key role."

The Minister said he is looking forward to holding the first meeting of the Liaison Group as soon as possible to review the situation and outlook in Kuwait, and to ensure that the Government's efforts are on target.

"At this first meeting I will discuss with members of the Liaison Group my plans to lead a trade mission to the area in the latter part of April, following Ramadan," Mr. Crosbie said.

Mr. Crosbie noted that the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, is currently travelling in the Middle East. While in Saudi Arabia, he is being joined by senior representatives from Canadian firms and business associations active in the area, for meetings with Kuwaiti and Saudi officials.

"We are giving this matter high priority," Mr. Crosbie said, adding that special units have been established in External Affairs and International Trade Canada and in the Canadian Commercial Corporation to help guide Canadian firms in the reconstruction effort. Other measures, including seminars and incoming Kuwaiti business missions, are being planned.

"Canadian firms that have done business in the Middle East know that it takes a long-term commitment to develop a true partnership. The Government of Canada is taking the same approach, and our efforts to help Canadian business in the region will be sustained and thorough. Creation of the Private Sector Liaison Group will help ensure that we succeed."

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