



No. 197

September 7, 1990.

CLARK EXPRESSES PLEASURE AT SUCCESSFUL EVACUATION OPERATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today expressed his great pleasure at the safe return to Canada of the Canadian women and children from Kuwait and Iraq, and his warm appreciation for the work done by members of the Canadian embassies in Kuwait and Baghdad to ensure the success of the evacuation.

"The safe arrival home of so many Canadians, predominantly women and children, is an occasion of happiness not just for the families of those concerned but for all Canadians," Mr. Clark said. "At the same time we remain deeply concerned about the continuing plight of Canadian men remaining in Kuwait and Iraq who are prevented, by a decision of the government of Iraq, from leaving." Mr. Clark noted that Canada, along with other countries, had repeatedly urged Iraq to comply with Security Council Resolution 664 which calls upon Iraq to allow those wishing to leave to do so. He promised that Canada would continue its efforts to obtain their freedom to leave Iraq.

Mr. Clark also released the text of the congratulatory message he has sent to the staff of the Canadian embassies in Baghdad and Kuwait. The message reads:

.../2

I know all Canadians join with me in offering congratulations on your successful efforts in arranging the safe evacuation of so many Canadian women and children . Your continuing devotion to the service of Canadians, in the face of difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions, reflects the finest traditions of the Canadian foreign service, and is admired and appreciated by all of us.