



news release

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CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS

IRAN-IRAQ MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP (UNIIMOG)

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Perrin Beatty, announced today that Canada has agreed to participate in the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) operating between Iran and Iraq. The Force is being established to assist in the implementation of a cease-fire agreement which represents a vital first step in efforts to end the 8-year Iran-Iraq war.

Canada will be contributing a fully self-sustained communications unit which will be responsible for all of the Observer Force's communication requirements along the entire 1,200 kilometre border between Iran and Iraq. In addition to this communications unit, which will comprise approximately 370 Canadian Forces personnel, Canada has agreed to provide 15 officers to assist at UNIIMOG Headquarters and observer positions on the Force.

In making the announcement, the Ministers referred to the Canadian participation in the United Nations Force as a concrete manifestation of our desire to monitor the cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq and the hope for the re-establishment of peace in this troubled area of the Middle East. Canada's

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contribution to the Observer Force is consistent with our traditional commitment to the United Nations peacekeeping operations and reflects the high regard in which Canadian Forces peacekeeping personnel are held by the international community.

A number of Canadians will be part of the United Nations advance teams which will be arriving in the area on August 10. The first elements of the Canadian contingent could be in place as early as August 12.

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the announcement by the United Nations Secretary General of the August 20 cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war and commend both parties for having reached this agreement. They conveyed their appreciation to Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar for his unstinting efforts that have brought the prospect of peace to the region of the Gulf.

Canada encourages Iran and Iraq to approach the talks, to begin on August 25 in Geneva, with a spirit of openness and the intention of moving resolutely toward a complete and final accord.