



March 13, 2024

Ms. Danielle Widmer
Clerk of the Committee
Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development
House of Commons
131 Queen Street, 6th Floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Widmer:

I am writing in response to the following Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development motion to produce papers, adopted on February 12, 2024:

That, pursuant to Standing Order 108(1)(a), and given the value of military goods and technology exports to Israel from Canada exceeded \$21 million in 2022, and that there were 315 utilized export permits and a further 199 authorized for military goods and technology to Israel reported in the 2022 "Report on the Export of Military Goods", the committee orders Global Affairs Canada to produce all documents, briefing notes, memorandums and emails within the department including the Minister of Foreign Affairs' office, and between the department and the Department of National Defence, the Canadian Commercial Corporation, the Privy Council Office and the Prime Minister's Office related to the granting of any export or brokering permits for military goods and technology to Israel between 2006 and 2024, within 30 days of the adoption of this motion; and that these documents be provided to the committee without redactions except to protect cabinet confidences and respect privacy legislation.

I would like to offer a general overview and explanation of the equipment and technology items that can be captured in the "Report on the Export of Military Goods", categorized as Group 2, under the *Export and Import Permits Act* (EIPA). The Group 2 List includes items specially designed for military use. This group includes non-lethal parts and components that are later incorporated into systems via manufacturing/supply chains, a wide variety of other related equipment such as surveillance or protective equipment, simulators, imaging or countermeasure equipment, software and technology, specialized test equipment, as well as major conventional arms, light weapons and small arms. Due to the nature of the Canadian defence industry, the majority of export permits issued by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) for military items are for parts, components and other related equipment and technology.

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The permits issued by GAC for items destined to Israel since October 7, 2023 have been for non-lethal equipment only.

From a historical perspective, Canada has not issued any permits for items destined to Israel for major conventional arms or light weapons, e.g., battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, large-caliber artillery systems, combat aircraft and unmanned combat aerial vehicles, attack helicopters, warships and missiles, missile launchers, heavy machine guns and recoilless rifles, since 1991 (the earliest year for which the Department has records). In terms of small arms, e.g. pistols, revolvers, carbines and rifles, over the past 30 years, there have only been four export permits issued under the EIPA, in 2008, 2010, 2015 and 2018.

Regarding our work on the production of papers, please rest assured that our Department takes its obligation to provide requested records very seriously. Unfortunately, providing all the documents within the scope of the motion within the 30 days is unachievable for several reasons. GAC estimates that there would be more than 50,000 pages of records within the scope of the motion. This includes records related to the estimated 4,100 Group 2 permits granted to Israel since 2006, additional emails, memos and other documents. Even in a best-case scenario, dozens of departmental staff would have to be dedicated to processing the request for up to a year, including time and resources required for assembling, reviewing, translating and conducting extensive consultations with Access to Information and Privacy experts, other governmental departments, central agencies and the affected companies. As a result, services to Canadians, including permit requests from Canadian exporters and access to information and privacy requests, would be displaced.

GAC is therefore proposing a pragmatic and achievable approach to ensure the delivery of what it hopes the committee will consider to be the most salient records in as timely a manner as possible. Under cover of this letter, we are providing a list of all Group 2 permits that have been issued for items destined to Israel between October 7, 2023 and February 12, 2024.

GAC is asking that members identify and confirm which of these permits to prioritize. The Department would then focus on records related to the prioritized permits and provide them in batches as they are reviewed, and translation is completed. In providing this list, GAC has undertaken a significant manual, permit-by-permit effort to provide more precise item descriptions than the permit software system is able to produce while still respecting commercial confidentiality, balancing the obligation to protect sensitive information with the imperative that it be as useful, transparent and timely as possible.

For awareness, permits on the list include some items for further re-export to Canada or allied nations (i.e. NATO or FVEY). Some of these items may be integrated into more developed components or full systems destined to Canada and allies. The majority of the permits are for parts and components, and all permits issued for exports to Israel since October 7, 2023, are for non-lethal items. Please also note that the permit list shows the maximum approved value for

each permit. This information is based on the item value as declared by the exporter and the maximum quantity approved under the permit. Actual exports must be of an equal or lower value and often represent only a fraction of the maximum approved value indicated on the permit. The “Report on the Export of Military Goods” only provides the value of actual exports that have taken place.

The maximum value of all permits that have been approved since October 7, 2023 for military items destined to Israel is \$70,494,248.63, of which \$47,015,532.42 is for permits issued for known end users in Canada and allied nations. Given the broader defence supply chains, other items may also be for end use by Canada and allied nations. For example, appearing in the list is an export permit that is in support of procurement from Israel by Canada’s Department of National Defence and another allied country. There is also a permit for exports linked to a European military transport aircraft program: the aircraft are in use by NATO allies.

Noting the constraints and information outlined above, should it continue to be the will of the committee to have the Department compile and send a list of all or selected permits that predate October 7, 2023, please advise.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the smooth delivery of documents to support the Committee in its study.

Sincerely,

David Morrison
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs