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CANADA WELCOMES ROUNDTABLE AGREEMENT IN POLAND

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today welcomed the agreement that was signed between Poland's government authorities and Solidarity and other groups, on political and economic reforms. This agreement was reached on April 5, 1989 at the final roundtable plenary.

Mr. Clark stated: "Canada's position has remained that dialogue between the Polish authorities and national pluralist groups, including Solidarity, would be the key to national reconciliation in Poland. For that reason, we have consistently expressed our support for the roundtable discussions.

In addition Canada has always held the view that political and economic reforms in Poland must go hand in hand if a longer term solution to the tensions that have afflicted Poland is to be achieved. Canada is therefore particularly encouraged that the roundtable discussions have led to much progress with respect to both types of reform."

Mr. Clark said that Canada would be following very closely the elections in Poland in June, both to the Sejm and to the newly created Senate and the implementation of the roundtable agreement which covers a wide range of issues.

Mr. Clark is looking forward to discussing these unprecedented developments during the visit to Canada of Polish Foreign Minister Tadeusz Olechowski in early May.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada