

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

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THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK INVITES COMMISSIONER WILLY DE CLERCQ OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EC) TO VISIT VANCOUVER,

MAY 10, 1986

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, has invited Mr. Willy De Clercq, EC Commissioner for External Relations and Trade Policy to visit Vancouver, Canada. Mr. Clark and Mr. De Clercq will discuss in broad terms Canada-EC bilateral relations including the effect on our trading relationship of the recent enlargement of the European Communities and Canadian concerns about world agricultural markets. Canada-US trade negotiations are expected to be discussed as will the new round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

The EC is the world's largest trading block, with a market of more than 320 million people. It accounts for almost a fifth of the world's trade and, as such, is a major trading power. The EC is Canada's second largest trading partner with the majority (58%) of our exports being manufactured goods. The EC remains Canada's second largest source of investment and the second most popular destination of Canadian investment abroad.

This year represents the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Canada-European Communities Framework Agreement. That agreement has as its key objective improved commercial and economic cooperation between the two parties.