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CONVENTIONAL ARMS NEGOTIATIONS IN EUROPE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today noted with satisfaction the Statement on Conventional Arms Control issued by the North Atlantic Council in Ministerial Session in Brussels on December 8 (copy attached). The statement sets out clearly and concretely the guiding principles and the framework of a negotiating approach for Alliance members at the negotiations relating to conventional arms in Europe which will be launched next year. Mr. Clark observed that "taken together with President Gorbachev's announcement of unilateral reductions and restructuring of Soviet conventional forces, the Statement by Ministers of the North Atlantic Alliance indicates that both sides are moving with dispatch toward serious negotiations on conventional forces in Europe. I think the conditions for productive negotiations toward maintaining stability at lower levels of conventional forces have never been better."

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada