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MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO THE  
FAMILY OF SIR ERIC WYNDHAM WHITE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Flora MacDonald, announced today that she had sent a message of condolence to the family of Sir Eric Wyndham White, the first Executive Secretary and later Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) who died earlier this week. Flora MacDonald recalled that Sir Eric had served the GATT for more than 20 years, until his retirement in 1968. Under his guidance, the GATT became the pre-eminent international institution for the expansion of trade. Sir Eric remained active after his retirement from the GATT, and most recently served as a consultant to the Canadian Delegation to the recently concluded Tokyo Round of GATT negotiations, where his knowledge and understanding of international trade was of great assistance to the Canadian negotiators.

Flora MacDonald's message stated: "On behalf of the Canadian Government, I extend to you my sincerest condolences on the death of your father, Sir Eric Wyndham White, who is remembered in Canada as an international public servant of the highest calibre. As Executive Secretary, and later Director General of the GATT, he presided with distinction over a series of multilateral trade negotiations and provided the leadership which built the GATT into the pre-eminent institution in its field. More recently, he was associated as a consultant with the work of Canadian negotiators during the Tokyo Round and we benefited greatly from the advice which he offered on the basis of his vast knowledge of the international trading system. We shall long remember the man and his unique contribution to the international community."