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NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL SESSION
BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 10-11, AND
VISIT TO IRELAND, DECEMBER 11-13, 1981

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that he will lead the Canadian delegation to the regular Fall Ministerial Session of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels on December 10 and 11.

Attention at the NATO meeting is expected to focus on the present state of East-West relations, including the opening on November 30 of negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on the reduction of theatre nuclear forces in Europe.

In his capacity as President d'Honneur, Dr. MacGuigan will deliver the main address at the meeting's formal opening ceremony on December 10.

Dr. MacGuigan will also make a visit to Ireland, December 11 to 13, to meet with Senator J.C.I. Dooge, the Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs. This visit is a follow-up to their meeting at the U.N. General Assembly in September and is part of Canada's effort to increase its contacts and consultations with European Economic Community (E.E.C.) member countries.

It is expected that the two ministers will discuss international issues of common interest, i.e., the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe), North-South Relations, the Middle East, Namibia and Afghanistan, as well as bilateral and E.E.C.-related questions.