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SEVENTH CANADA/MEXICO JOINT MINISTERIAL
COMMITTEE MEETING

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canada will host the 7th Canada/Mexico Joint Ministerial committee (JMC) meeting in Ottawa January 22-23, 1990.

Mr. Clark will co-chair the JMC sessions with his counterpart, Fernando Solana, Secretary of Foreign Relations of Mexico. The meetings will also be used to advance preparations for the Prime Minister's visit to Mexico 15-18 March.

"Mexico's leading economic and political role in the region makes it a priority country in our plans to expand relations in the region, stated Mr. Clark. "Discussions at the ministerial meeting will provide an important opportunity for our two countries to review our growing and increasingly comprehensive multilateral and bilateral relations."

The meetings will be attended by seven Mexican and nine Canadian cabinet members, and bilateral discussions will cover subjects such as the environment, trade and investment, agriculture, tourism, and cooperation in legal affairs. An important part of the meeting will also be an exchange of views on regional and international political and economic issues.

As a member of the Group of 77 and the Rio Group, Mexico is an especially important representative of the viewpoints of developing countries and Latin America. Mexico plays a leading role in Latin American political affairs and is now Canada's largest market in Latin America. Two-way trade totalled \$1.8 billion in 1988, and is growing significantly. Canada is now Mexico's third largest export market.