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CANADA AGREES TO VIENNA DOCUMENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (CSCE)

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canada will join consensus on the Concluding Document of the Third Follow-up Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The Foreign Ministers of the 35 participating countries - all the countries of Europe except Albania, plus Canada and the United States - will close the Meeting in Vienna this week. Mr. Clark will speak on Thursday, January 19.

The CSCE is a series of conferences and agreements which follows from the Helsinki Final Act (1975) and has as its basic objectives to enhance security and confidence, to break down barriers between East and West and to facilitate the freer flow of people, information and ideas. The Vienna meeting began in November 1986.

Mr. Clark described the Vienna Document as a major breakthrough in all areas covered by the CSCE process and a solid foundation for further progress in the search for stability and security in Europe. He noted that Canada had played a major and constructive role in all aspects of the Vienna negotiations.

Mr. Clark especially welcomed the decisions to launch two negotiations on conventional armed forces in Europe and to establish an ongoing Conference on the Human Dimension to deal with human rights and related issues. The arms negotiations will aim to achieve results that would be both effective and verifiable, and significantly reduce military tensions in Europe. The human dimension meeting will keep essential human rights and humanitarian questions central to the East/West agenda.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada