



communiqué

N°:
No.: 241

December 7, 1987.

REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES FROM THE SOVIET UNION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, summarized today the progress made by Soviet authorities in considering the forty-two family reunification cases presented by Mr. Clark to Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in October 1986.

Mr. Clark stated that, in addition to the twenty-two families earlier approved to leave the Soviet Union, twelve more outstanding cases have now been resolved positively. The Minister reiterated his commitment to support all applications for family reunification.

Mr. Clark encouraged the Soviet Union to maintain the momentum on family reunification. He noted the Soviet willingness to discuss this issue as a normal part of Canada-Soviet relations.

Continuing progress on this and other humanitarian matters, he stated, helped to improve the climate of East-West relations by contributing to the building of confidence.