



No. 223

October 3, 1990.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CANADA

IN THE NETHERLANDS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, welcomes the fact that many of the world's foremost experts on Canada will meet in The Hague, Netherlands from October 24 to October 27, 1990 to address the opportunities and challenges facing Canada as it enters the 21st century.

The conference, entitled "Canada on The Threshold of the 21st Century : European Reflections upon the Future of Canada", has the support of a variety of European institutions. It is organized by The Association for Canadian Studies in The Netherlands in cooperation with the other Canadian Studies Associations in Europe.

The conference, to be opened by Ottawa born Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, will bring together internationally recognized observers of Canada from 17 countries including the Soviet Union and the United States.

The conference will explore the economic, political, social, cultural and identity consequences of the profound demographic changes taking place in Canadian society. The transformation of Canada's internal political structure, including constitutional reform and the re-definition of federal-provincial relations, will be discussed. In addition Canada's position internationally including the future of Canadian-European relations in the context of the dramatic changes on the European continent will be examined. Another important issue to be addressed is environmental deterioration and its impact on Canada.

Canadians participating at the conference include former Governor-General Jeanne Sauvé; Canadian Chief of Defence Staff, General de Chastelain; the president of the Conference Board of Canada, Dr. James Nininger; former chairperson of The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Dr. Sylvia Ostry; University of Toronto political scientist, Dr. Jack Granatstein; and the well-known Canadian environmentalist Donald Chant, president of the Ontario Waste Management Corporation.