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The Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has announced that Japan's entry as a full member of the Organization had been approved, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today issued the following statement:

The Canadian Government welcomes the fact that Japan is to become a member of the OECD as a further evidence of increasing cooperation between Japan and the countries of Europe and North America. In the negotiations regarding Japan's membership, which have been going on for some time, the Canadian Government, together with other OECD countries, strongly supported Japan's membership in the Organization. It was felt that as a major industrial country Japan could make a positive contribution to the work of the Organization by participating as a full member.

The Council of Ministers of OECD is scheduled to meet in the late autumn and that will be the first OECD session which Japan will attend as a full member.