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SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Government and Parliamentary Opposition have agreed to strike a Special Joint Committee of the House of Commons and Senate on Canada's International Relations. The terms of reference and composition of the Committee were approved by the House on June 12 and by the Senate on June 27.

The Committee will examine a wide range of issues bearing on Canada's international relations; its deliberations will be aided initially by the document Competitiveness and Security: Directions for Canada's International Relations, which was tabled in the House of Commons on May 14. The Committee will submit its Final Report by May 31, 1986. This Report could either present the Government with expressions of its opinion, based on its consultations with Canadians, or go on to make specific recommendations, at the discretion of the Committee.

The Committee is empowered to conduct hearings across Canada and is expected to travel to every province to solicit the views of the public on the objectives and conduct of Canada's international relations. This will be the first major review of Canada's foreign policy since 1970, and the first of this sort ever conducted by a Parliamentary Committee.