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March 1, 1989.

THE HONOURABLE MARY COLLINS

ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

TO ATTEND THE LAUNCH OF NEW CONVENTIONAL ARMS NEGOTIATIONS

IN VIENNA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that the Associate Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Mary Collins, will represent Canada at a meeting of Ministers in Vienna, March 6-8, 1989, on the occasion of the launching of the two new negotiations on conventional arms control in Europe. These are: the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, among the 23 states, members of the NATO Alliance and the Warsaw Pact, which seeks to establish a balance of conventional armed forces at lower levels; and the Negotiations on Confidence-and Security-Building Measures, among all 35 signatories of the Helsinki Final Act, which will attempt to build upon the results of the successful agreement reached in Stockholm in 1986.

In making today's announcement, Mr. Clark also reiterated his conviction that these new negotiations hold the key to a radical transformation of the security relationship in Europe. "There has developed over the past years a new dynamic in East/West dealings," he stated, "which has resulted in a more positive environment for change. The possibilities we now face are greater and more challenging than in many years. It will be our responsibility in Vienna to respond to this promise," Mr. Clark noted, "ensuring that consideration of issues involving conventional forces keeps pace with improvements in the political climate."

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Canada

Secretary of State for External Affairs Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures