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CANADA SIGNS CHARTER OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today signed the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) on behalf of Canada.

The signing ceremony, which took place at the headquarters of the OAS in Washington, D.C., followed a vote in the Organization's General Assembly where members enthusiastically welcomed Canada as the 33rd member of the Organization.

"Today is an historic occasion for me and for my country," said Mr. Clark. "For today, Canada joins the oldest regional organization in the world and the centrepiece of the inter-american system. Today, at long last, we take our seat at the table of the Organization of American States," said Mr. Clark in his address to the OAS Assembly.

Canada's membership in the Organization will become effective when formal ratification takes place on January 1, 1990.

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Secretary of State  
for  
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État  
aux  
Affaires extérieures