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CANADIAN DELEGATION TO
CSCE HUMAN CONTACTS EXPERTS MEETING
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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that a delegation of Canadian officials will attend a meeting of experts on East-West family and other human contacts to be held in Berne, Switzerland beginning April 15. A preparatory meeting commenced April 2. The meeting is part of the process of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the CSCE. The Canadian delegation will be headed by Mr. William Bauer, the Canadian Ambassador-at-Large and Coordinator for the CSCE. Canadian parliamentary observers will be part of the delegation.

Since the conclusion of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, the CSCE process has provided a framework for discussion among all the countries of Europe and Canada and the United States. The Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe is part of this process. At the insistence of NATO countries and like-minded neutral countries, close attention has also been given to questions of human rights and humanitarian questions. At Canada's initiative and invitation, an experts meeting on human rights was held in Ottawa, in May-June, 1985. The focus is now on humanitarian issues arising from families divided by political borders and on the need to expand human contacts especially between Western and Eastern Europe.

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