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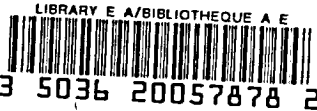
GROUPE DE TRAVAIL  
SUR L'EUROPE CENTRALE  
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# Joint Message by Joe Clark and John C. Crosbie

Just when Canadians were preparing for the further integration of the 12 member-countries of the European Community — the so-called Europe 1992 — along came the prospect of a more extensive, more complex Europe, one which brought together East and West, with all that that implies. The time had come for Canada to help raise the Iron Curtain. And, we have.

Canada's Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe is a major element in our response to the struggle for political and economic freedom in the region. It brings together public and private resources in Canada in support of what is an irrepressible push towards democracy and private enterprise in Central and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

The success of the Task Force depends as much on individuals, groups and businesses in Canada as it does on government initiatives. Canada's multicultural community in particular—with its linguistic, cultural and social links to Central and Eastern Europe—is a unique asset in our efforts to provide assistance to, and pursue opportunities in, those countries.

The Task Force will support and encourage investment by Canadian business in the region and will provide technical assistance in such areas as agriculture, environmental protection, finance and telecommunications. The program will also provide Canadian expertise in such key areas as election procedures, law reform, human rights and free media.

This is a story worth telling. We are publishing this newsletter on a periodic basis so that Canadians will know what we are doing to help countries in Central and Eastern Europe in areas such as management, investment, and the building of democratic institutions. It is based on information gathered from public and private sources in both Canada and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

We all have a direct stake in developments in Central and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Our security and future prosperity depend on it. We encourage you to join the many Canadians who are playing an important role in building democracy and a stable political and economic order in that part of Europe.

The Right Honourable Joe Clark  
Secretary of State for External Affairs

The Honourable John C. Crosbie  
Minister for International Trade

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