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SPRING MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today details of the forthcoming Spring Ministerial Session of the North Atlantic Council to be held in Halifax on May 29 and 30, 1986. Canada last hosted a regular Spring Session of the NATO Foreign Ministers in 1974 in Ottawa. It will be the first time this Spring Session is held in a Canadian provincial capital and the first time outside a NATO member's national capital since the Istanbul meeting of 1960.

Discussions at the Ministerial Session are expected to focus on recent developments in East-West relations, including the Alliance's approach to arms control negotiations.

With the full cooperation of the Government of Nova Scotia, the meetings will be held in the Halifax World Trade and Convention Centre. The opening ceremony of the Ministerial meeting will be held on the morning of May 29, 1986 in the Nova Scotian Hotel. Lord Carrington will hold a press conference on May 28, 1986 in the Media Centre followed by a reception for media representatives. Other events scheduled include a reception for Foreign Ministers and their delegations hosted by the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia on May 28 and a dinner hosted by the Canadian government for the Foreign Ministers on the evening of May 29th.