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CANADA/EC MEETINGS, OCTOBER 16-18, 1979

Senior officials of the Canadian Government and of the Commission of the European Communities held high-level consultations as well as meetings of the two Sub-Committees of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) in Ottawa on October 16 and 17. The high-level Canada/EC meetings have taken place since 1972, while the JCC and its Sub-Committees (Industrial Cooperation Sub-Committee and the General and Preparatory Sub-Committee) were created under the Canada/EC Framework Agreement signed on July 6, 1976. Representatives of the Canadian provinces were present at the sub-committee meetings.

The EC delegation was led by Manfred Caspari, Deputy Director-General for External Relations, and the Canadian delegation by J.R. McKinney, Special Economic Adviser, Department of External Affairs. The Industrial Sub-Committee was chaired on the Canadian side by A.M. Guérin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Industry, Trade and Commerce.

A comprehensive exchange of views took place on economic prospects for the coming year including likely trends in world trade and the prospects for growth in Canada and Europe. The extent to which the patterns of economic growth and world trade would be influenced by developments in the energy field was stressed by both sides.

The discussions re-affirmed the importance of prompt implementation of the agreements reached in the recent Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN). Canadian and EC officials outlined the implementation procedures which they proposed to follow.

With regard to the vital question of energy supply the two delegations took note of developments flowing from the Tokyo Summit in June this year, the Paris meeting of energy Ministers in September and the ongoing work of the International Energy Agency. Against this background they outlined their respective energy problems and policies.