

Ministers Clark and Crosbie noted that Canada has already taken action to help Eastern Europe through a \$71 million assistance package to Poland and Hungary and involvement in the establishment of a European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

A unique feature of the Bonn Conference is the inclusion of business representatives in the various national delegations. "The Canadian government greatly values the special expertise our country's business people can contribute to the process of East-West economic cooperation," said Minister Crosbie, "and we heartily welcome their participation in the Conference." In addition to the prominent business leaders who will accompany Mr. Crosbie to the final plenary sessions, another group of private sector representatives will form part of the official Canadian delegation for the duration of the Conference, while a third group will join in a series of informal discussions with business people from other countries.

The CSCE has assumed increased importance in recent months following the dramatic changes in Eastern Europe. The Bonn meeting will constitute the latest in a continuing series of general and specialized meetings which have grown out of the 1975 CSCE Helsinki Final Act, a document agreed to by the heads of government of the 33 countries of Europe (all except Albania), plus Canada and the United States. It encompasses military security and confidence-building, human rights and co-operation in human contacts, information, culture, education, trade and industrial co-operation, science and environmental protection.

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