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VISIT OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that the Foreign Minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Eduard A. Shevardnadze, will pay an official visit to Ottawa from September 30 to October 3 at the invitation of Mr. Clark.

Mr. Shevardnadze's visit, the first by a Soviet Foreign Minister since Andrei Gromyko's visit to Canada in 1975, is a continuation of the more active dialogue on important international and bilateral topics begun with Soviet leaders in 1984. In particular, the visit follows up Mr. Clark's visit to the Soviet Union in 1985.

Mr. Clark and Mr. Shevardnadze will discuss a range of issues concerning international security and bilateral relations.