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CANADA WELCOMES NUCLEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND NORTH KOREA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet welcomed the announcement made in Geneva on October 17 of an agreement between the United States and North Korea on the nuclear question.

"The Canadian government is very pleased with this agreement. It holds out hope for a positive security climate in the North Pacific region. We would like to see this agreement followed by an early resumption of the dialogue between South and North Korea, which is a prerequisite for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula," said Mr. Ouellet.

Canada has been invited to participate in an international consortium that would be established to replace North Korea's nuclear facilities. "The consortium proposal interests us and we look forward to receiving more details soon. It is in our interest to help find a lasting solution to the North Korean nuclear problem," added Mr. Ouellet.

Canada plans to continue its consultations with South Korea regarding co-operation possibilities in relation to North Korea. Mr. Ouellet raised this matter in July with his counterpart, the Korean Foreign Affairs Minister, Han Sung-Joo. Canada has an excellent relationship with South Korea: at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Summit in Seattle in November 1993, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and President Kim Young-sam launched a special partnership uniting the two countries. Canada and South Korea consult each other regularly on the subject of North Korea.

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