

News Release

March 9, 1995

No. 47

CANADA PARTICIPATES IN THE FIRST MEETING OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced today that Canada took part in the preliminary conference of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), held in New York from March 7 to 9.

"Canada will become a member of KEDO," said Mr. Ouellet. "The consortium will monitor the transformation of the energy sector in North Korea, following a procedure that will guarantee North Korean compliance with its non-proliferation obligations. Participation in KEDO will enhance our special partnership with South Korea."

South Korea, Japan and the United States are the main members of this organization. "We are pleased to see that the United States has taken the initiative to set this important process in motion," said Mr. Ouellet.

The decision to join KEDO underscores Canada's support for an exceptional effort to ensure security in this part of Asia and to support the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. "In this way we are taking action on the objectives of non-proliferation set out in the Government's foreign policy statement of February 7," stated the Minister.

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