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GOVERNMENT WELCOMES FOREIGN POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs told Parliament today that the government fully endorses the recommendation of a Special Parliamentary Committee that Canada follow an independent, active and internationalist approach to foreign policy. He also said the government concurs in the great majority of detailed recommendations made by the Committee covering such areas as security and arms control, trade, development assistance, relations with the U.S.A., human rights and the Northern dimension of Canada's foreign policy. There will as a result be a number of initiatives in these areas, some of which are already under way.

Mr. Clark made his statement in connection with the tabling in the House of Commons of the government's response to the Report of the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons on Canada's International Relations. The government's statement brings to a close the foreign policy review initiated by the government in the Spring of 1985 with the publication of a discussion paper on Canada's international relations. The response consists of a statement on Canadian foreign policy and replies to each of the 121 detailed recommendations contained in the Special Joint Committee Report.

Mr. Clark referred to the coast-to-coast hearings conducted by the Committee under the Chairmanship of Senator Simard and Tom Hockin M.P., and described the report as "an unprecedented exercise in participatory democracy in the development of Canadian foreign policy". He outlined the various ways in which the government has acted or will do so to give effect to the Committee's recommendations. He also said the government fully shares the Committee's conviction that Canada can and should play a leading role in multilateral institutions.