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CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Canada introduced two proposals this week at the Vienna Follow-up Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The first deal with problems encountered by individuals applying to travel to other states. The second calls for the removal of obstacles in the way of members of ethnic minorities and regional cultures wishing to establish contacts with people in other countries with whom they have close cultural, ethnic, or linguistic affinities.

In introducing the first proposal on February 17, the Head of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. William Bauer, told the conference that its provisions were "designed to provide to individuals in certain states the assurance that petty bureaucrats will no longer be able to prevent citizens from benefitting from the undertakings which their governments made in Helsinki and Madrid. They would remove cruel and entirely needless obstacles placed in the way of individuals who wish to exercise their right to leave, or to return to, their country of origin."

The proposal calls on participating states to deal favourably and expeditiously with all applications for travel. In particular, they should:

-- give special consideration to requests from dual nationals to leave the country of one nationality in order to visit or settle in the country of their other nationality;

-- give primary importance to the wishes of those seeking family reunification in choosing where they want to settle; and

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