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CSCE EXPERTS MEETING ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that he has appointed R. Harry Jay to head the Canadian Delegation to the Experts Meeting on Human Rights which will be held in Ottawa starting on May 7, 1985.

The Experts Meeting is part of the ongoing process of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in which 33 European countries, the United States and Canada have, since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, sought to strengthen their cooperation and build confidence in the security, economic and humanitarian areas. The decision to hold the Ottawa meeting was taken at Madrid in 1983, as the result of a Canadian initiative. It will be the first CSCE meeting exclusively devoted to human rights, and the first held in North America.

The Ottawa meeting will last six weeks and will be held in the Government Conference Centre. It is to be preceded by a preparatory meeting which will determine the agenda, beginning on April 23.

Mr. Jay is a retired Foreign Service Officer with a distinguished career, including appointments as High Commissioner to Jamaica, Canadian Ambassador to Sweden and Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva. Mr. Jay has consulted with the other governments participating in the Experts Meeting, and is now soliciting views of interested Canadians.