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## FIRST EC-CANADA MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS UNDER TRANSATLANTIC DECLARATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Mr. Jacques Poos, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg, representing the Presidency of the European Community, and Mr. Frans Andriessen, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Community, will visit Ottawa on January 28 and 29, 1991. These will be the first ministerial consultations held under the terms of the Declaration on Canada-EC Relations agreed during Prime Minister Mulroney's visit to Rome in November 1990.

"We welcome these consultations at this crucial time," Mr. Clark stated. "This visit clearly underlines the importance both sides attach to maintaining strong transatlantic links."

Mr. Poos and Mr. Andriessen will meet Prime Minister Mulroney and Ministers Clark and Crosbie. The meetings will permit Canada, the European Community Presidency and the Commission to discuss the war in the Gulf, the outlook for the post-war period in the Middle East, the situation in the Baltic states and the Soviet Union in general, as well as other international political issues.