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## CANADA AND OTHER ARCTIC NATIONS MEET ON THE ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canadian officials will meet with their counterparts from seven other circumpolar nations to discuss a framework strategy for protection of the Arctic environment. The meeting will take place January 15-17, 1991, in Kiruna, Sweden.

"The environment and the Arctic are major priorities of the Canadian government. Therefore, it is in our interest to work closely with other circumpolar nations to ensure that the environment we share in the Arctic is a healthy one," stated Mr. Clark.

At the meeting, officials from Canada, the U.S.S.R., the U.S., Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland will review proposals on an emergency response mechanism, a monitoring program, a Memorandum of Understanding on protection of Arctic flora and fauna, and international legal instruments concerning the Arctic environment. Officials will develop a comprehensive Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy which will be considered by Ministers at the Conference on the Arctic Environment in Rovaniemi, Finland, in the summer of 1991.

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