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External Affairs Minister visits France and Brussels

Flora MacDonald, Secretary of State for External Affairs, visited France December 10 and 11 at the invitation of French Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-François Poncet.

The visit underlined the excellent relations between the two countries and enabled the two ministers to exchange views on major current international issues as well as to consider how to expand the existing economic and cultural co-operation between France and Canada. Miss MacDonald's visit to France was the first at the foreign-minister level since Don Jamieson was there in 1976.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs went on to Brussels on December 12 to participate in the joint North Atlantic Treaty Organization Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers Meeting. Miss MacDonald said that Canada supported plans to build up NATO's nuclear arsenal but would not try to influence allies who were reluctant to have nuclear weapons on their soil.

Foreign policy review

While in France, Miss MacDonald spoke to reporters about the foreign policy review she said was under way in Canada, and gave her assurance that relations with Europe would continue to be of central importance in Canada's foreign relations whatever the outcome of the review.

"The foreign policy of any country," Miss MacDonald said, "is a combination of continuity and innovation. It could hardly be otherwise. The element of continuity is based on fundamental interests: on geography; on history; on the demands of security and economics; on fundamental national value. But the world, alas, does not stand still, and the way these basic interests are pursued must be constantly reviewed and adapted to the changing circumstances of the world in which we live. And of course today this is ever more important than previously, with the growing interdependence of the international community, the recognition



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Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald is met by French Foreign Minister Jean-François Poncet in Paris. Miss MacDonald visited France at the invitation of Mr. Poncet.

of the concept of the global village, the stark fact of the impinging of international considerations on so many of the decisions that must be taken on domestic issues.

"Any observer of the international scene must recognize that the realities of the politics of the world are greatly different now from what they were a decade or more ago. And it is to ensure that Canadian foreign policy is now and in the future relevant to the international realities that we have committed our Government to a full review of our foreign policy. But that is not the only reason. Our Government is absolutely committed to the concept of marshalling public support for the programs that we espouse. We firmly believe that if any foreign policy is to be effective, it must com-

Twenty-six years ago this week...

For the first time oil flowed in the newly-completed pipeline from Regina, Saskatchewan to Sarnia, Ontario — a distance of 1,750 miles.