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NORWAY-CANADA CONFERENCE ON CIRCUMPOLAR ISSUES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that in conjunction with his official visit to Norway, December 7-9, 1987 he will lead Canadian participation in a Norway-Canada Conference on Circumpolar Issues in Tromsø, from December 6-9.

The idea of a conference was first proposed by the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg, during his visit to Ottawa last May. The aim of the conference is a full and open discussion of the issues Canada and Norway confront due to strategic and geographical location, history, environment and the sociological evolution of our peoples.

A dozen prominent individuals from both the private and public sectors of Norway and Canada have been invited to address themes covering development in northern areas in an historical perspective, the human dimension - minorities in the North, approaches to international legal problems (boundary and sovereignty issues), resource policy questions and the issue of defence and confidence building measures in northern areas. Canadians who are the special guests of the Norwegian government are Nellie Cournoyea (NUNAKPUT), Minister of the Northwest Territories for Health and for Energy, Mines and Resources, Professors Franklyn Griffiths (Stanford University), Harriet Critchley (University of Calgary) and Donat Pharand (University of Ottawa), and Claire Barnabé also from the Government of Northwest Territories.