

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society - (CCMS) - has accepted an invitation from the Government of Canada to hold its eighth Plenary Session in Ottawa, April 10-11. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon Mitchell Sharp, and the Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Jack Davis will be the hosts to the delegates from the 15 member nations of NATO who will attend the meeting.

Other departments of the Canadian Government actively concerned with the work of the CCMS are the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, the Ministry of Transport, the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Department of National Defence, all of which will participate in the meetings.

The CCMS was established by the North Atlantic Council in 1969 to promote an exchange of views and experience among NATO and other countries and to deal with specific problems of the human environment with the objective of stimulating international action on such problems. Since then, the CCMS has undertaken nine projects in the areas of air pollution, advanced health care, waste treatment, urban transportation and road safety, coastal and inland water pollution, work satisfaction, regional planning and disaster assistance.

The projects, once approved by the Committee, are carried out or piloted by those members having a particular interest in the subject matter, and their results are made available to the international community as a whole. Canada has played an active part in several of the projects and pilots an Inland Waters Project which is designed to explore the problems of river basin management in a multijurisdictional setting.