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O.E.C.D. MINISTERIAL MEETING

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, will represent Canada at the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris February 13 and 14.

The O.E.C.D. is a major forum for consultation among the principal industrialized countries on economic, trade and development questions. In the light of recent monetary and other economic developments, the annual report of the Secretary General to Ministers is expected to emphasize more than in the past specific national and international policy issues facing member governments. Ministers will examine the prospects for economic growth and stability within O.E.C.D. countries, the current state of their economic relations with the rest of the world, and the future work programme of the Organization. In examining aid and trade prospects for the developing countries, they will review progress of member countries in work on the proposed preferential tariff system for exports of developing countries.

Ministers will consider the economic policy problems created for the governments of industrialized countries by rapid technological change. In this field particularly, they are expected to provide guidance for the future activities of the Organization.

Ministerial representatives from all twentytwo O.E.C.D. countries in Western Europe, North America and Japan will attend. Mr. Pepin will be accompanied by officials from the Departments of External Affairs, Finance, Industry, Trade and Commerce, Agriculture and the Bank of Canada.

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