



# communiqué

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## SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Government and Parliamentary Opposition have agreed to strike a Special Joint Committee of the House of Commons and Senate on Canada's International Relations. The terms of reference and composition of the Committee were approved by the House on June 12 and by the Senate on June 27.

The Committee will examine a wide range of issues bearing on Canada's international relations; its deliberations will be aided initially by the document Competitiveness and Security: Directions for Canada's International Relations, which was tabled in the House of Commons on May 14. The Committee will submit its Final Report by May 31, 1986. This Report could either present the Government with expressions of its opinion, based on its consultations with Canadians, or go on to make specific recommendations, at the discretion of the Committee.

The Committee is empowered to conduct hearings across Canada and is expected to travel to every province to solicit the views of the public on the objectives and conduct of Canada's international relations. This will be the first major review of Canada's foreign policy since 1970, and the first of this sort ever conducted by a Parliamentary Committee.

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The Committee will submit an Interim Report on Canada-US trade and the question of Canadian participation in the US Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) by August 23, and the Government has undertaken to await completion of the hearings before taking decisions in these policy areas. More generally the Government will make every effort not to preempt the ongoing work of the Committee during the one-year Review. However, it is understood that the flow of international events will inevitably require specific and timely policy responses by the Government during this period.

The composition of the Committee is as follows:

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, P.C., M.P.  
Honourable Jean Chrétien, P.C., M.P.  
Patrick Crofton, M.P.  
Suzanne Duplessis, M.P.  
André Harvey, M.P.  
Tom Hockin, M.P.  
Bud Jardine, M.P.  
Pauline Jewett, M.P.  
Bill Kempling, M.P.  
Steven Langdon, M.P.  
Bob Porter, M.P.  
Reginald Stackhouse, M.P.

SENATE

Senator Richard Doyle  
Honourable Senator Jacques Flynn, P.C.  
Honourable Senator Philippe Gigantes  
Honourable Senator Jerahmiel Grafstein  
Honourable Senator Peter Stollery

Canadians who wish to make their views known to the Committee may directly contact either of the Co-Chairmen, c/o House of Commons or the Senate, Ottawa. Copies of Competitiveness and Security may be obtained by writing to the Department of External Affairs, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa K1A 0G2.