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CANADA TO ATTEND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

SUMMIT IN BELGRADE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canada will accept an invitation to attend the ninth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, from September 4 to 7, 1989. This is the first time Canada has been invited to be present as a guest at a NAM Summit. Mr. Clark will lead the delegation for the first two days of meetings.

Canada has long recognized that the NAM, comprised of over one hundred countries which together represent approximately two-thirds of the United Nations' membership, is an important player on the international scene. Attendance at the NAM Summit meetings will enable Canada to gain a better understanding of the Movement's perspective on a full-range of economic, political and social issues.

"This invitation to be a guest at the NAM Summit reflects recognition of Canada's international role, where we are often called upon to act as a bridge between the developed and the developing world", said Mr. Clark. "We welcome this opportunity to exchange views with a wide range of nations on rapidly-evolving issues such as global security, world economic development and the environment", he added.

Canada's presence at the NAM Summit will permit follow-up on discussions Mr. Clark held with Third World leaders at the Group of 77 Meeting in Caracas, Venezuela in June 1989 as well as at the Paris Economic Summit meeting last July.

"A deeper appreciation of the Non-Aligned Movement's concerns and priorities will also assist Canada in taking constructive initiatives at the United Nations, particularly during our current period of tenure on the Security Council", the Minister noted.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada

The NAM has traditionally invited a wide range of guests to its meetings, including a number of Western countries. Guests at the Belgrade Summit will include Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Dominican Republic, Portugal, San Marino, the Vatican and Greece as well as Poland, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Rumania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. Canada is the first member of the Economic Summit Group of Seven to attend a NAM Summit.

Guest status at NAM meetings is quite distinct from that of "Observer". Observer status denotes that a country is considered eligible for full membership in the NAM, whereas guest status does not assume any commitment to the NAM's views or objectives on the part of a guest country.

Guests are invited to be present at the plenary sessions of the NAM but are not permitted participate actively in them, or to address the NAM Members. Guests are also excluded from Committee sessions.

While in Belgrade, Mr. Clark will meet with Yugoslavia's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, as well as a number of Foreign Ministers from other countries.

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