



No. 302

December 8, 1989.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ATTENDS
OECD AND NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS
AND HOLDS BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN LONDON

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, will be in Europe next week to participate in two major multilateral meetings focussing on the economic and political implications of recent developments in Eastern Europe. These are the OECD Foreign Ministers Meeting in Brussels on December 13, 1989, and the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting of December 14-15 in the same city.

On December 11 in London, Mr. Clark will also meet with his British counterpart and the new Secretary General-elect of the Commonwealth.

"Almost every day we are witnessing unprecedented developments in Eastern Europe," stated Mr. Clark. "Canada attaches great importance to these events. In Brussels, along with other countries, we will be reviewing recent developments to see how Canada can best support constructive momentum in the direction of economic and democratic renewal."

On December 13, the Foreign Ministers of 24 OECD countries, together with the senior representatives of major international institutions, will review their progress in contributing to Poland and Hungary's economic reform efforts. This OECD Group of 24 (G-24), which was established after the Paris Economic Summit this summer, will also consider new initiatives which might be of assistance.

On December 14-15, Canada's Secretary of State will participate in the semi-annual meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers. "The changes taking place in Europe will have historic implications not only for the people of Europe and North America but for the whole international community," said Mr. Clark. "At NATO, we will be looking at how we can work together to encourage the current process of democratic and economic reform within a peaceful and stable Europe. To this end, among other things, I will be discussing with my NATO colleagues our shared goals for the Open Skies Conference to be held in Ottawa this February."

While in Europe, Mr. Clark will take the opportunity to meet with the recently appointed British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd, on December 11 in London. The Ministers will exchange views on recent developments in Europe as well as other matters of mutual interest such as the evolving situation in Southern Africa.

Mr. Clark will also meet with Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Secretary General-elect at the Commonwealth Secretariat's London headquarters to review various Commonwealth matters, particularly the work of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa (CFM). At their recent meeting in Kuala Lumpur in October, the Commonwealth Heads of Government asked Canada's Secretary of State to continue his work as Chairman of the CFM. The Committee was established in Vancouver in 1987 to focus Commonwealth efforts aimed at the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa.