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CANADA JOINS INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN (CIM)

OTTAWA- The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, the Honourable Mary Collins, today announced that Canada will join the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM). The CIM is a specialized agency of the Organization of American States (OAS) which works towards social, political, civil and economic equality for women in North and South America and the Caribbean region.

"Our joining the CIM further demonstrates Canada's determination to be full and constructive citizens of the Americas," said Mr. Clark. "Canada will continue to play a leading international role on women's issues by participating actively in this important OAS agency."

Mrs. Collins noted that a concerted effort is needed if governments are to bring about necessary improvements in the lives of women in OAS member countries. "Canada feels privileged to share its initiatives, experiences and perspectives in pursuit of women's equality: our participation will hopefully contribute to the further strengthening of the CIM's role as a catalyst for positive change," added Mrs. Collins

The Ministers named Kay Stanley, Coordinator of Status of Women Canada, as Canada's Principal Delegate to the CIM's 25th Assembly, October 15-19, 1990, in Washington, D.C. Canada will join other OAS delegations in discussing issues of concern to women, in particular, the integration of women into the development process, violence against women, and the CIM's Regional Plan of Action entitled "Full and Equal Participation by the Year 2000". Delegates will also draft a Plan of Action on Women and Employment.

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The decision to join CIM as a full member follows on Canada officially joining the OAS on January 8, 1990. Previously, Canada has had observer status at the CIM meetings.

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