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CANADIAN-SOVIET JOINT STATEMENT

Attached is an unofficial translation of the Canadian-Soviet Joint Statement issued in Moscow on November 16, 1990, during the visit of the Secretary of State for External Affairs to the U.S.S.R.

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Unofficial Translation

JOINT STATEMENT

In accordance with the established practice of regular Soviet-Canadian political consultations, U.S.S.R. Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard A. Shevardnadze and Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, at their working meeting in Moscow on November 16, 1990 held an in-depth discussion on a broad range of international issues with a view to promoting joint efforts aimed at consolidating the achievements represented by the overcoming of the Cold War and a transition to a peaceful period of history.

Significant attention was accorded to the consideration of the situation in the Persian Gulf. Both sides expressed profound concern over the impasse experienced by the international community in finding a way out of the dangerous crisis that has emerged. The two Ministers insisted that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and comply with all UN Security Council resolutions as soon as possible, with the eventual result being a complete restoration of the situation existing prior to the aggression of Iraq against Kuwait. The two Ministers continue to hope that the crisis can be resolved by peaceful means. At the same time, they agreed to work closely together to pursue through the United Nations whatever further measures may be required to ensure Iraqi compliance with Security Council resolutions and international law.

It is utterly unacceptable for both the peoples and governments of the Soviet Union and Canada that their citizens are being held against their will by the Government of Iraq. The Soviet Union and Canada insist that Iraq permit those citizens to return to their homes in accordance with international law and accepted behaviour.

In the course of a thorough discussion of the state of affairs in the Asia-Pacific region, the Ministers stated that clear trends were emerging towards reduced tensions and an increased desire to accelerate the movement towards regional stability, the settlement of armed conflicts, national reconciliation and economic integration.

The Ministers underlined similarity between the ideas, approaches and specific proposals of the U.S.S.R. and Canada towards the creation of instruments to promote security, co-operation and mutual confidence in the Asia-Pacific region. The Ministers agreed that regional security arrangements could prove to be useful counterparts to growing economic and political co-operation in the region.

They also agreed that discussions on Pacific security questions appropriate to the requirements of that region should be held with other states in the area and agreed to co-operate to promote meetings for that purpose.

The Ministers emphasized that the Conference on Security and Co-operation (CSCE) in Europe would enter a new and more expansive phase with the Paris Summit of the leaders of the 34 countries of Europe and North America. Both sides expressed their view that there is a need to hold follow-up CFE Talks (Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe) immediately following the Paris CSCE Summit Meeting. The two Ministers agreed to work together during the construction of the new institutions of the CSCE to ensure their practical impact on the promotion of full peace and security for all participating countries.

The Ministers recognized the value of vigorous Canadian and Soviet participation in the development and activity of these institutions, thereby providing a scope of co-operative security extending truly from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

The Ministers agreed to stay in close touch on these and other security issues as matters develop and to broaden and intensify the co-operation between their governments in the interests of peace and security.

Both sides believe that the spirit of understanding and mutual confidence in which discussions were held is testimony to the new quality of Soviet-Canadian political dialogue and is a good basis for active co-operation between the U.S.S.R. and Canada in international affairs.