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GULF CRISIS AND SOUTH AFRICA TOP ISSUES
FOR CLARK'S MEETINGS IN EUROPE
FEBRUARY 16-20, 1991

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, will travel to Europe, February 16 to 20, for discussions with Commonwealth and European foreign ministers on the Persian Gulf and South Africa.

"These meetings in London, Dublin and Stockholm provide me with an opportunity to share views on the Gulf crisis and other issues, including Canada's post-hostilities proposal which the Prime Minister and I reviewed yesterday with UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar," stated Mr. Clark.

On Saturday, February 16, the Minister will chair a special session in London of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa. The Committee's aim is to assess recent developments in South Africa, especially President de Klerk's commitments concerning the repeal of certain apartheid laws. On Sunday, February 17, Mr. Clark will hold a series of bilateral meetings on the Gulf crisis and other matters with fellow members of the Commonwealth Committee.

On Monday, February 18, Mr. Clark will travel to Ireland to discuss the Gulf crisis with the Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gerard Collins. Ireland, a neutral member of the European Community, has important trade and humanitarian links with the Middle East. It also shares, with Canada, a long history of involvement in UN peacekeeping efforts.

The Minister will return to London the same day for talks with the Right Honourable Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. The ministers' discussions will focus on the Gulf crisis. They will also exchange views on recent developments in the Baltic States, and on current trans-Atlantic relations.

On Tuesday, February 19, Mr. Clark travels to Stockholm for a joint meeting with Nordic foreign ministers from Sweden, Norway and Finland, also attended by senior representatives from Denmark and Iceland. Discussions in Stockholm will focus on peacekeeping requirements in the Gulf once hostilities are over, and other Middle East issues. A summit to discuss curbs on the export of weapons and instruments of war, the situation in the Baltic States, recent developments in Southern Africa, and a Canadian proposal to create an Arctic Council will also be reviewed.

On Wednesday, February 20, Mr. Clark returns to London to give a major address on the Canadian perspective on the Gulf crisis and our proposals for the post-hostilities period, to the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House. The Minister will also meet with his Special Emissary, Marc Perron, Assistant Deputy Minister for Africa and the Middle East. Mr. Perron will report to Mr. Clark on the consultations which he will have just completed in the Middle East. Canada's ambassadors to Jordan, Iran, Egypt and Israel will also be in London on Wednesday to brief Mr. Clark on the most recent developments in the region.

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