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MEETING ON THE COMMITTEE ON THE
CHALLENGES OF MODERN SOCIETY (CCMS)

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society - (CCMS) - has accepted an invitation from the Government of Canada to hold its eighth Plenary Session in Ottawa, April 10-11. The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon Mitchell Sharp, and the Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Jack Davis will be the hosts to the delegates from the 15 member nations of NATO who will attend the meeting.

Other departments of the Canadian Government actively concerned with the work of the CCMS are the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, the Ministry of Transport, the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Department of National Defence, all of which will participate in the meetings.

The CCMS was established by the North Atlantic Council in 1969 to promote an exchange of views and experience among NATO and other countries and to deal with specific problems of the human environment with the objective of stimulating international action on such problems. Since then, the CCMS has undertaken nine projects in the areas of air pollution, advanced health care, waste treatment, urban transportation and road safety, coastal and inland water pollution, work satisfaction, regional planning and disaster assistance.

The projects, once approved by the Committee, are carried out or piloted by those members having a particular interest in the subject matter, and their results are made available to the international community as a whole. Canada has played an active part in several of the projects and pilots an Inland Waters Project which is designed to explore the problems of river basin management in a multijurisdictional setting.

Canada has chosen as a case study for the project the Saint John River Basin.

The CCMS meets twice yearly to review the progress of on-going projects, to select new undertakings and to discuss at a senior policy level environmental concerns and activities in each member country. The meeting in Ottawa marks the first time that the CCMS will meet away from the headquarters of NATO at Brussels.

At the Ottawa meeting of the CCMS in April, Canadian experts will have an unusual opportunity to become acquainted with counterpart experts from Europe and the U.S.A. At the same time the visitors will be introduced, in many cases for the first time, directly to Canadian environmental concerns and accomplishments.