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VISIT TO CANADA OF THE
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NORWAY

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Mr. Dagfinn Vårvik, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway will pay an official visit to Ottawa on April 13 and 14.

After visiting Ottawa, Mr. Vårvik will spend two days in Edmonton and then pay a private visit to Seattle, Washington before returning to Norway.

On his trip to Ottawa Mr. Vårvik will be accompanied by Mr. Kjell Vibe, Director-General for Political Affairs, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Asbjørn Ringen, the Minister's secretary.

-- A brief note on Canada's relations with Norway and a biographic note on Mr. Vårvik are attached.

Canada's Relations with Norway

Norway and Canada have been allies in wartime and peacetime. Both countries share many common viewpoints on issues that arise in such international organizations as the United Nations as well as a result of their membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. They have similar values in a number of domestic fields including the environment, the North, and social policy. In the past both have benefited from each other's experience in dealing with problems in these areas.

Formal diplomatic relations were established between Norway and Canada in 1942 when Norway opened a mission in Ottawa. In 1943 Canada's former Governor-General, Major-General Georges Vanier, was accredited as Minister to the Norwegian Government in exile in London. Canada opened a mission in Oslo in 1946. Both governments raised the status of their missions to that of embassies in 1955.

Norway is among Canada's ten largest customers in the world. Canadian sales to Norway totalled \$186 million in 1971, 80% of Canadian exports consisting of nickel and copper ores, matte and concentrates. Sales of high labour value-added goods from Canada to Norway have increased by 50% during the period 1969-1971. Norwegian exports to Canada in 1971 were valued at \$53 million, and included principally nickel anodes, cathodes and ingots, fish, furs and specialized foods.

Mr. Varvik's visit is part of a continuing exchange of visits between Canada and Norway. In 1969, both the Norwegian Minister of Defence and the Minister of Municipal Affairs made official visits to Canada. In the same year, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, paid an official visit to Norway. In 1971 the Norwegian Parliamentary Committee on Transportation and Communications made a study tour of Canada, and the following year the Norwegian Government Institution of Organization and Management visited Ottawa. In 1971 the Canadian Minister of Defence visited Norway.

MR DAGFINN VÅRVIK

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Mr. Vårvik was born on June 8, 1924 in Leinstrand in Sør-Trøndelag, Norway. The son of a farmer, he graduated in Economics from Oslo University in 1951.

Mr. Vårvik was Secretary of the Centre Party's parliamentary group from 1952 until 1961 when he became Political Correspondent on the Norwegian newspaper Nationen (The Nation). In 1963 he became Chief Editor of the paper.

Mr. Vårvik became Chairman of the Centre Party's Programme Committee in 1965. He has been the Centre Party's Deputy Chairman since 1967. For a short time in 1962 and 1963 he sat in the Storting (Parliament) as deputy member for the county of Akershus.

Mr. Vårvik was briefly Minister of Finance in 1963 and then Minister of Prices and Income from 1965 to 1971.

In October 1972 Mr. Vårvik was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in the coalition government of Prime Minister Lars Korvald.