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VISIT TO OTTAWA OF THE BRITISH MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS,

THE RT. HON. JOHN DAVIES, M.B.E., M.P.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that the Right Honourable John Davies, M.B.E., M.P. would be visiting Ottawa on Monday, April 30 for talks with Canadian Ministers.

Since Mr. Davies is the Minister responsible for the coordination of British policies related to the European Economic Community, it is likely that the talks will concentrate on the development of the community and its future relations with Canada. This is also a matter of great importance to the Canadian Government which is actively seeking to further relations between Canada and the countries of Europe.

During his stay in Canada, Mr. Davies will also visit Montreal where he will address the Canadian Exporters Association.

A biography of Mr. John Davies is attached.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOHN DAVIES, M.B.E., M.P.

The Right Honourable John Davies, a member of Mr. Heath's Government from shortly after its formation in 1970, was appointed in November, 1972 Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, with responsibility for dealing with European Community affairs in Brussels as required, and coordinating the governmental handling of European affairs at home.

Mr. Davies, whose earlier career had been in business and who was the first Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, was born in January 1916 and went into politics in 1970, being elected Conservative Member of Parliament for Knutsford, Cheshire, at the general election in June. The following month he was appointed Minister of Technology and created a Privy Councillor, after the re-grouping of various ministries announced in October, he became Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and President of the Board of Trade.

A chartered accountant by profession, he joined the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (now British Petroleum) in 1946 and was posted shortly afterwards to Stockholm. He later served the company in Paris.

In 1960 he was appointed a director of BP Trading Limited and became managing director of Shell-Mex and BP the following year. In February 1962 he was appointed Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, a position he held until taking up his post as first Director-General of the CBI in 1965. He relinquished that position in September 1969 to become an executive director of Hill Samuel.

Mr. Davies served as a member of the National Economic Development Council, the Council of Industrial Design, the British National Export Council, the Public Schools Commission and the Council of the University of Sussex. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and has received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Essex. He speaks French, German, and Swedish.

Educated at St. Edward's School, Oxford, he served during the War, first in the 9th Armoured Division and later on the staff of the Combined Operations Experimental Establishment as a specialist in disembarking equipment and men from landing-craft and amphibious vehicles. He was awarded the M.B.E. for this work.

Mr. Davies is interested in modern French painting, enjoys opera and plays golf. He is married and has a son and a daughter.