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CANADA SUPPORTS NATO PROJECTS WITH CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced a contribution of \$150,000 for new initiatives to support and strengthen contacts between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the nations of Central and Eastern Europe. The projects were announced on the occasion of the visit of Czech and Slovak Federal Republic President Vaclav Havel to NATO Headquarters in Brussels, the first such visit by a Head of State from Central and Eastern Europe.

"Canada has been a leader in urging NATO to extend the hand of friendship to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. NATO Heads of State and Government committed themselves to this idea at the London Summit in July 1990," stated Mr. Clark. "These new projects, developed in the spirit of the London Declaration, will promote deeper understanding between former adversaries and contribute to the building of a new Europe."

Canada will provide \$80,000 for a joint Canada-NATO seminar on the Role of the Military in a Democratic Society; \$50,000 to the NATO Democratic Institutions Fellowship Program; and \$20,000 to the Atlantic Council to study the enhancement of relations with the newly emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe.

The joint Canada-NATO seminar is scheduled for the Fall of 1991 and will bring together participants from Central and Eastern Europe, the U.S.S.R. and NATO countries. The additional Canadian funded awards under NATO's Democratic Institutions Fellowship Program will enable six candidates from Central and Eastern European nations to pursue studies related to democratic development. The

financial assistance to the Atlantic Council of Canada will be used to develop new ways for Canada and the Alliance to co-operate with Central and Eastern European countries.

"Canada is proud to contribute to these latest initiatives," said Mr. Clark. "They are a concrete expression of Article 2 of the NATO Charter -- historically known as the 'Canadian Article' -- which encourages non-military co-operation in the Alliance. NATO's reaching out to the countries of Eastern and Central Europe during this difficult period remains of critical importance in encouraging them to pursue their own democratic development."

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