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MINISTERIAL SESSION ON THE MADRID FOLLOW-UP MEETING
OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE
SEPTEMBER 7-9, 1983

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the Honourable Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of State (External Relations) will head the Canadian Delegation to the Ministerial session called by the Government of Spain in connection with the Madrid Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) which will meet in Madrid, Spain, September 7-9, 1983. Mr. Pepin will be the second speaker at the opening session on September 7 and will deliver the Canadian statement at that time.

The views of the Canadian Government and people of the recent tragedy involving the Soviet attack on a Korean airliner will be emphasized in Mr. Pepin's official statement to the session and in his other official discussions.

Mr. Pepin will indicate Canada's approval of the draft concluding document of the Madrid Meeting which first convened in November, 1980. The document contains provisions for the continuation of the CSCE process, initiated in 1975, through another follow-up meeting in Vienna in 1986 and a series of meetings of experts to deal with individual questions. Among these is the Meeting of Experts on Human Rights sponsored principally by Canada and due to meet in Ottawa in 1985. The document also provides for a Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, which will begin in Stockholm early next year.

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The prospective agreement reflects Western aims and philosophies, particularly on human rights. The measure of achievement, however, will only become apparent as the provisions of the new document and of the Helsinki Final Act are fulfilled by the participating states. The formal conclusion of the Madrid Meeting, which is still uncertain, would be a concrete step in developing a wider political dialogue between East and West, in initiating a new forum which could make a contribution to enhanced security in Europe.