



# communiqué

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## VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO BELGIUM AND SWITZERLAND

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The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that he will address the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva in the course of working visits to Belgium and Switzerland, January 26 to February 2, 1983.

Mr. MacEachen will visit the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels, where he will be co-Chairman of the Fifth Meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee with Mr. Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission and Commissioner responsible for External Relations. The Joint Committee reviews activities carried out under the aegis of the Canada/EC Framework Agreement on Economic and Commercial Cooperation which was signed by Mr. MacEachen for Canada on July 6, 1976.

Mr. MacEachen will also meet Mr. Gaston Thorn, President of the Commission, and several other members of the Commission to review with them current bilateral and multi-lateral issues of interest.

During his visit to Switzerland, Mr. MacEachen will participate in the European Management Forum's Davos Symposium 1983. The Symposium, which will be chaired by Raymond Barre, will take place under the patronage of the Commission of the European Communities, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Union of Industries of the European Community (UNICE). It will be attended by Heads of Government and senior Ministers, as well as key business figures from both the industrialized and industrializing countries, and senior officials of international institutions. The Symposium will focus on global economic issues and on advancing common efforts for worldwide economic progress and cooperation.

On February 1, Mr. MacEachen will address the opening plenary of the 1983 session of the Committee on Disarmament. He will be underlining the growing concern of Canadians about the arms race and emphasizing the vital role of arms control and disarmament negotiations for international peace and security. Issues under consideration in the Committee on Disarmament are directly related to three Canadian arms control and disarmament priorities: a nuclear test ban; a convention prohibiting chemical weapons; and a treaty to prohibit the development, testing, and deployment of all weapons for use in outer space. The forty-member Committee on Disarmament, the multilateral negotiating body in Geneva, meets each year from early February to late August.

Mr. MacEachen will then make a short working visit to Berne to meet H.E. Pierre Aubert, President of the Swiss Confederation and Foreign Minister. The meeting will be followed by a dinner offered by President Aubert.

Mr. MacEachen will return to Canada on February 2.