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PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1961.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, His Excellency Koca Popovic, has completed a two-day official visit to Ottawa where he has been the guest of the Government of Canada. Mrs. Popovic accompanied her husband. The invitation was extended by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green.

During the visit, cordial conversations were held between Mr. Popovic and the Secretary of State for External Affairs on international problems of mutual interest. They agreed that special attention should be directed to the question of disarmament as one of the major issues facing the world at this time, and they discussed a number of other important questions confronting the United Nations. The exchanges of views between the two Foreign Ministers were conducted in a friendly and informal atmosphere. There has been a steady growth in recent years in consultation between Canadian and Yugoslav officials, particularly in connection with United Nations affairs, and these discussions at Foreign Minister level are a natural development from this improvement in relations. It is the hope of both Foreign Ministers that this visit will lead to further useful cooperation between the two countries on international questions of mutual concern and thus contribute to the advancement of peace and understanding among nations.

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Apart from the periods specifically set aside for official discussions between Ministers, various social engagements were arranged, including an official dinner given by the Government of Canada in honour of the Yugoslav Foreign Minister and Mrs. Popovic on March 27, at which the Honourable Howard Green was host; a luncheon on March 28 given by the Speaker of the Senate, the Honourable Mark Drouin, who visited Yugoslavia last summer; the dinner tendered by the Yugoslav Foreign Minister on March 28 in Mr. Green's honour and the Yugoslav Ambassador's reception the same evening. During the visit Mr. Popovic was also conducted around the capital city and was given a guided tour of the laboratories of the National Research Council.