

# Statement

Secretary of  
State for  
External Affairs



# Déclaration

Secrétaire  
d'État aux  
Affaires  
extérieures

90/39

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

STATEMENT BY

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JOE CLARK,

AT THE G-24 MINISTERIAL MEETING

BRUSSELS

July 4, 1990.

Just over six months ago we met here to review and move forward our common efforts to assist Poland and Hungary on their way to democracy and the open market.

How things have changed since we last gathered. What began in Poland and Hungary has swept virtually all of Central and Eastern Europe. The Berlin Wall has crumbled; the Iron Curtain has disintegrated; totalitarian regimes have collapsed; and a new Europe has been born.

Canada has profound family ties with these nations in transformation. One in ten Canadians has origins in Eastern or Central Europe, and we want to contribute Canadian skills and support to the changes in Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Romania. We have established a Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe to work out the details of an expanded assistance program, administer it, and coordinate private and public sector activities. That Task Force has consulted intensively with Canadian groups and individuals, encouraging them to participate financially and in practical, concrete ways.

The Canadian Government will contribute an additional \$60 million, over three years, to make that program effective.

The first element of that program will emphasize the consolidation of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. Our priorities will be to provide expertise in the areas of elections, law reform, a free media, the development of a professional Public Service, human rights and a democratic process. The open market will not survive in Central and Eastern Europe unless the roots of democracy grow firm and strong. Democratic development and consolidation is in the most profound security interest of us all.

The second element is economic development, with the priority to develop the practical expertise to make a market economy work. We intend to give technical assistance and management training in a variety of areas, including agriculture, law, taxation, privatization, environment, finance and telecommunication.

Finally, the program will support bilateral business activities. This will include trade promotion, enterprise specific management training and support for trade councils and feasibility studies.

In mounting this effort, Canada will be guided by the principles which have governed our program of assistance for Poland and Hungary and which have been born out by our experience so far. These include:

- The recognition that private enterprise - both in the West and in Central and Eastern Europe - will be the cornerstone of economic growth, not governments.
- The consequent requirement for governments to facilitate private sector investment and trade.
- The desirability of the greatest possible coordination between governments, industry, academia and individuals in bringing their particular attributes to bear on the region.
- And the necessity to avoid duplication and redundancy internationally as we mount our various national efforts.

As we approach the challenge of assisting the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, we recognize that we are in this for the long haul. Progress will be uneven. It will not be immediate. There will be twists and turns in the road ahead, and that road will be bumpy. Therefore, as we embark on this journey together, we must act according to two principles.

The first is the requirement to avoid an attitude which, in its rigidity and impatience, treats the countries of Central and Eastern Europe as if they were in a competition. Our support for the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe must be undifferentiated. In a very real sense, the success of individual countries in Central and Eastern Europe will be tied to the success of others. We must structure our policies accordingly.

But there is a second principle. And that is that our efforts must be governed by the behaviour of the governments of the region. Assistance offered to countries which have not demonstrated a commitment either to democracy or to the open market is to be avoided. We are here to offer assistance in the consolidation of a new system, not the perpetuation of an old one. To abandon that standard would be to abrogate our responsibilities to the people of the region.

These two principles led Canada to accept in principle Romania's inclusion in future G-24 assistance efforts. However, we are not prepared to offer such assistance in practice until the Government of Romania has reaffirmed its commitment to a course of reform predicated on dialogue, democracy and peaceful change.

Canada's commitment to the new Europe is unshakeable. European security is our security. European values are our values. European prosperity is our prosperity. One old struggle is now ending. But a new struggle has just begun. Within our resources, Canada will do our part to assist in that new struggle.