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TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT OTTAWA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemoçin, will be in Ottawa February 25 to 27. Mr. Alptemoçin will meet with Prime Minister Mulroney in addition to his host Mr. Clark.

Discussions with the Turkish Foreign Minister will centre on the Gulf Crisis, especially the post-hostilities period, and other issues related to peace and development in the Middle East. Canada-Turkey bilateral relations, as well as other regional issues, will be reviewed.

"Turkey has a unique and important vantage point on the Gulf Crisis," stated Mr. Clark. "I look forward to sharing ideas with Mr. Alptemoçin on how Canada and Turkey can co-operate in efforts to find a lasting and just peace in the Middle East."

Mr. Alptemoçin's visit to Ottawa is part of a series of consultations which the Turkish Foreign Minister has undertaken in the Middle East, North America and Europe. This is the first official visit to Ottawa of a Turkish foreign minister since 1978.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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AHMET KURTCEBE ALPTEMOÇIN
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TURKEY

Mr. Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemoçin was born in Istanbul in 1940. He graduated from Middle East Technical University in Ankara in 1962 with a degree in mechanical engineering, followed by graduate work. Subsequently, he worked for various manufacturing concerns in the Federal Republic of Germany and in the city of Bursa, in southwestern Turkey. Mr. Alptemoçin was one of the founders of the Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen Association.

Mr. Alptemoçin was first elected to the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) in the general election of 1983 as a Motherland Party deputy for Bursa. He was appointed Minister of State in the first government of former Prime Minister Turgut Özal. After one year in the job, he was named Minister of Finance and Customs, a post he held until March 1989. On October 12, 1990, he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs by Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut, succeeding Mr. Ali Bozer.

Mr. Alptemoçin is married to Mrs. Gülseren Alptemoçin. They have one son. In addition to his native Turkish, the Minister speaks English, German and Italian.

CANADA-TURKEY BILATERAL RELATIONS

Bilateral relations between Canada and Turkey are excellent. In addition to a sound and growing bilateral relationship, the two countries are linked by common interests in such multilateral fora as NATO, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the UN and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, visited Turkey in November 1990 for talks with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Alptemoçin, Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and President Turgut Özal. The visit afforded a valuable opportunity to review bilateral relations and exchange views on issues of common concern, such as the Gulf Crisis, the Cyprus question and the evolving political and economic situation in Europe and the Soviet Union. Foreign Minister Alptemoçin's visit to Canada (February 25 to 27, 1991) for meetings with Prime Minister Mulroney and Minister Clark will follow up and intensify the growing political dialogue between Canada and Turkey.

Canada and Turkey have also enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial trading relationship. Major Canadian companies such as Northern Telecom have direct investments in Turkey, while others such as Lavalin/UTDC have formed joint ventures for the successful pursuit of major projects such as the Ankara Urban Transit Project (Metro). Canadian companies are well placed to develop many new projects with Turkish counterparts. Two-way total trade for the period January to October 1990 amounted to C\$201 million (\$130 million in exports to Turkey; \$71 million in imports from Turkey).

Bilateral treaties and new areas for co-operation between the two countries are increasing. Canada and Turkey signed a Transfer of Offenders Agreement in 1989. Negotiations are presently under way to conclude a double taxation and police co-operation agreement.