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OECD EDUCATION MINISTERS TO MEET

Paris, 13th-14th November 1990

- Education Ministers from OECD countries are to meet at the Organisation's headquarters in Paris on 13th-14th November. The meeting, the third at Ministerial level of OECD's Education Committee, will be chaired by Mr. Javier Solana Madariaga, Minister of Education and Science, Spain.

- The overall theme of the meeting is "High quality education and training for all", a title which encapsulates the scale of the challenges and the need for bold visions for education at the threshold of the 21st century. Its emphasis on quality underlines the key role that learning plays in the economic, social, cultural and political well-being of OECD Member countries, while the affirmation that it should be "for all" recognises that education is a cornerstone of participation in OECD societies.

- Ministerial discussion at the meeting is expected to focus on three main topics:

1. Learning for all: challenges and strategies

- Ministers will discuss their main priorities for the 1990s, the implications of these for participation, funding, and governance of education and training, and the steps to be taken to realise lifelong learning.

2. The quality and relevance of education and training

- Ministers will present their main strategies to improve quality and relevance, as well as the specific role of evaluation, assessment, information, and research. They will review policies for teachers against the background of emerging teacher shortages in some countries.

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3. Improving access and overcoming failure

- Education Ministers will address issues of equity and disadvantage in relation to policies for the different stages of the life cycle -- childhood, adolescence, and adulthood -- and the coordination of these with other types of action.

A communique will be issued at a press conference to be given by the conference Chairman and OECD Secretary-General Jean-Claude Paye at the conclusion of the meeting, scheduled for 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday 14th November.

- A background report and statistical information will be available. • Journalists are invited to contact:

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