



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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# communiqué

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CANADIAN ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT CONSULTATIONS  
WITH JAPAN AND CHINA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced that a Canadian delegation of senior officials departed today for China and Japan to hold bilateral arms control and disarmament consultations. These consultations will encompass a wide range of arms control and disarmament topics with particular focus on issues at the United Nations and the work of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva where all three countries are represented at the negotiating table. Canada places great importance on such consultations with these major Pacific states. These consultations are intended to become regular annual events.

The consultations in Tokyo will take place on March 19 and 20. During his visit to Canada last January, Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone agreed with Prime Minister Mulroney that their officials hold regular arms control and disarmament consultations, and that the first of these would take place before the Tokyo Economic Summit Meeting in May. Canada views these consultations with Japan, an Economic Summit partner and a non-nuclear power, to be an important element of its bilateral relationship with Japan.

The consultations in Beijing will take place on March 24 and 25. They are part of an agreement to strengthen the consultative process between Canada and China. The arms control and disarmament consultations are particularly important given China's position as one of five nuclear weapon powers and as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.