



No. 177

August 24, 1990.

## CANADA HELPS CREATE A NEW ARCTIC RESEARCH GROUP

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, stated today that Canadians played a key role in the establishment of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), a new non-governmental organization to promote scientific co-operation throughout the Arctic.

"Negotiations were difficult and lengthy," stated Mr. Clark. "Our representatives helped find ways to accommodate the different interests of the founding members and to allow for future participation by non-Arctic countries."

Scientists from Canada, the United States, the U.S.S.R., Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland will hold IASC's founding meeting in Resolute Bay August 28 to 31, where they will sign IASC's founding articles and hold preliminary discussions.

IASC is expected to focus its research projects on issues such as food chain contaminants, a growing concern among Arctic inhabitants, as well as on other major issues such as the Arctic's role in global climate change. It will also provide member-countries, such as Canada, access to an international pool of scientific expertise on Arctic issues.

"We were pleased to work closely with other government departments and the Government of the Northwest Territories in efforts to make this organization a reality," stated Mr. Clark. "In fact this is the latest in a series of Arctic initiatives by our Government, including the introduction of legislation to establish the Canadian Polar Commission, which will advise the Government on Arctic issues and provide a focus for Arctic science in Canada."

-30-

For more information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
External Affairs and International Trade Canada  
(613) 995-1874