



and effective manner to an evolving industrial and technological situation, and to potential commercial opportunities for Canadian companies, by applying to possible tritium exports, in an appropriate way, its nuclear non-proliferation policy as regards nuclear exports. That policy, developed and consistently applied by successive Canadian Governments since 1965, is designed to ensure that Canada's nuclear exports, including tritium, will not be used for nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive purposes.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Clark"

Chemical Weapons Use in the Iran-Iraq War

Following is the text of the Canadian statement on chemical weapons use in the Iran-Iraq war, delivered at the Conference on Disarmament on March 25 by Mr. Arsène Després, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Canada in Geneva.

"Participants in this forum will be aware that the Secretary-General of the United Nations has reported to the Security Council, on the basis of the findings of an international investigative team which he sent to the area, that the renewed use of chemical weapons in the Gulf war has been confirmed. The President of the Security Council on March 21 issued a statement on behalf of the Council which includes a strong condemnation of this continued use of chemical weapons in violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol. The Security Council statement also includes a renewed demand that the provisions of that Protocol be strictly observed. This is the third such confirmation of chemical weapons use in that war. In this instance, the use of chemical weapons by Iraqi forces against Iranian forces has been confirmed. This ought to be cause for dismay on the part of the entire international community.

Mr. President, it is well known that the investigation of allegations of chemical weapons use is a matter in which Canada has taken a particular interest and to which we have devoted considerable effort. During the fortieth UN General Assembly Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, presented to the Secretary-General a handbook on the investigation of allegations of the use of chemical weapons or biological weapons. Precisely for the purpose of assisting in investigations of the kind that has recently been completed, on March 11 that handbook was submitted in this forum as something that would be of use in the future in the context of a verification regime that would be part of a chemical weapons convention as it is being negotiated. Canada lauds the Secretary-General for again taking the initiative to investigate the most recent allegations of chemical weapons use.

Canada, a signatory of the 1925 Geneva Protocol banning chemical weapons use, strongly opposes the use of chemical weapons. We call on all signatories to the 1925 Protocol, including both combatants in the Gulf war, to adhere to their legal obligations. We resolutely condemn any action that has been or might be taken in breach of that agreement. In taking this position, the Government of Canada is in no way seeking to take sides between the combatants in that tragic war, which ought to be brought to a negotiated conclusion as soon as possible in accordance with Security Council resolution 582. Our concern is to maintain and strengthen the authority and integrity of international agreements.

We are also concerned at any actions which would have the effect of undermining the efforts in this forum to conclude a comprehensive, verifiable chemical weapons ban and have it universally applied. The evidence of recent chemical weapons use should reinforce our sense of urgency to complete this priority task. We hope the international community will be unanimous in condemning any future use of this kind of weapon, which we have by agreement defined as a weapon of mass destruction which ought not to be used."

Canadian Arms Control and Disarmament Consultations with Japan and China

On March 17, the Department of External Affairs issued the following communiqué.

"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."