

# News Release

Secretary of  
State for  
External Affairs



# Communiqué

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## CANADA AFFIRMS CONTINUING SUPPORT ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, on the occasion today of the twentieth anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), strongly reaffirmed Canada's continued support for the NPT.

"The NPT remains an agreement of major importance because it provides for legally binding commitments to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and facilitates international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy", stated the Minister. "It also encourages parties to the Treaty to pursue negotiations aimed at reducing stockpiles of nuclear weapons."

Canada, one of the earliest adherents of the NPT, is a major advocate of universal adherence to the agreement. "I call upon all states which have not done so to formally accede to the NPT", said Mr. Clark. "Strong support by the international community for this important Treaty remains critical, particularly in the current climate of unprecedented change around the world."

Some 141 countries are currently party to the NPT, however a number of states with advanced nuclear capabilities have declined to sign the Treaty.

Mr. Clark expressed his satisfaction with recent progress in USA/USSR talks on nuclear arms control and disarmament which conforms with the provisions of the NPT. "I hope that we will see further constructive work towards the goals of reducing nuclear arsenals and preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the period before the fourth NPT Review Conference to be held in Geneva in August-September 1990", commented the Minister. "The NPT, which has already made a major contribution to non-proliferation, will continue to have Canada's support as a vital factor in strengthening international security and cooperation."

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