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DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DOUGLAS ROCHE ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF U.N. COMMITTEE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, is pleased to announce that Mr. Douglas Roche of Canada has been elected Chairman of the First Committee of the 43rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The First Committee deals with disarmament and related international security questions, and is in session from today until the end of November, 1988.

This is the second time in the history of the United Nations that a Canadian has assumed this position. The first Canadian to do so was the Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson in 1949.

Mr. Clark noted that Ambassador Roche is assuming the Chairmanship of the First Committee at a time when confidence in the United Nations is growing, particularly as a result of the Secretary General's efforts to end the conflict between Iran and Iraq. The Secretary of State for External Affairs expressed his hope that the 43rd General Assembly, and in particular the First Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Roche, could use this opportunity to exercise leadership in the reduction of international tensions and regional conflicts.

A member of Parliament from 1972-84, Douglas Roche was appointed Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament on October 5, 1984. In that capacity, he represents Canada at international meetings on disarmament, is a Special Advisor to the Government, and is the chief liaison between the Government and non-governmental organizations concerned with arms control and disarmament. He was recently Deputy Head of the Canadian delegation to the Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (UNSSOD III). Mr. Roche is the author of eight books including United Nations, Divided World, a contemporary examination of the United Nations amidst the global crises of the nuclear arms race and economic development.

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Secretary of State
for
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Secrétaire d'État
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