

# PRESS RELEASE



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## NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

The Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today made the following statement:

"On August 11, I welcomed the news that the United States and the Soviet Union might shortly be tabling a joint draft nuclear non-proliferation treaty in the Geneva Disarmament Committee. It is good that this has now taken place, for we attach high priority to such a treaty. Unless preventive steps are soon taken, the world may be plunged into a general nuclear arms race, the dire consequences of which I need hardly dwell upon. The members of the Geneva Committee, of which Canada is one, will now be turning their attention to the specific provisions of the draft treaty.

"We consider the draft to provide a valuable basis for negotiation. Its basic provisions would prevent the emergence of new military nuclear powers. We are confident that these provisions would impose no restrictions on the right of signatories to participate in defensive alliances, or to exploit nuclear energy for legitimate peaceful purposes. The draft treaty is, however, not yet complete; it lacks an important verification article, which would apply international safeguards to the peaceful nuclear activities of signatories. We hope the co-sponsors of the draft treaty will soon reach agreement on a generally acceptable provision for international safeguards.

"Some non-nuclear countries have expressed concern that the draft treaty has a "discriminatory" aspect. Some element of discrimination is, of course, unavoidable by virtue of the very nature of the treaty which seeks to prevent additional military nuclear powers from developing. I nevertheless hope that the nuclear powers will be able to compensate non-nuclear signatories for their voluntary renunciation of nuclear weapons by offering them reasonable assurances in respect of both their national security and the prospects of controlling and reducing existing stocks of nuclear weapons.

"At all events, a non-proliferation treaty is vital and urgent and the time is short. In the weeks ahead Canada will strive with other countries to bring negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion and to make the treaty a working reality."