

News Release

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CANADA DEPLORES CHINESE NUCLEAR WEAPONS TEST EXPLOSION

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today deplored the Chinese underground nuclear test carried out yesterday. He called on China to abandon its nuclear weapons testing program and to work with Canada and the other members of the Conference on Disarmament for a speedy conclusion to the negotiations on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

"We call on all the nuclear weapons states to cease testing now and forever. China should respect the recent call for an end to nuclear testing made at the ASEAN Regional Forum meeting in Brunei on August 1," said Mr. Ouellet. China is a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum.

The last Chinese underground nuclear test took place on May 15, 1995, only three days after China, along with 174 other states party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, had agreed to a Statement of Principles and Objectives which set 1996 as the deadline for completing the CTBT negotiations and called on nuclear weapons states to "exercise restraint in testing" in the interim.

Canada is committed to concluding a CTBT by 1996 at the latest. A CTBT will put a definitive end to nuclear explosive testing and will represent an important step forward on the nuclear disarmament agenda.

- 30 -

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