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PRESENTATION OF THE CANADIAN REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, has drawn attention to the fact that on March 25, 1980, Canada will present to the Human Rights Committee at the Office of the United Nations in Geneva its report on Canada's observance of the principles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Canada submitted its report to the United Nations Secretary General last spring. The report was then translated into the United Nations' languages and given to all members of the United Nations Committee which is constituted under the Covenant. Now, in line with the procedures followed by all states parties to the Covenant, Canada will be represented in Geneva by a delegation to introduce the report and answer any questions Committee members may have on its content.

The report has been made public in Canada and is available free of charge from the Secretary of State Department.* It is, furthermore, in the process of being distributed to all principal libraries across the country.

Dr. MacGuigan recalled that Canada became a party to the Covenant in May, 1976, following extensive consultations between the federal and provincial governments. He noted that the composition of the Canadian delegation (list attached) appearing before the Committee tomorrow is symbolic of the federal-provincial co-operation which the preparation of the 480-page report entailed. It reflects the commitment of federal and provincial governments to Canada's responsibilities as a party to the Covenant.

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