

News Release

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CANADA DEPLORES CHINESE NUCLEAR WEAPONS TEST EXPLOSION

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today deplored the latest nuclear weapons test explosion carried out by China and called on the Chinese Government to respect its obligation under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to pursue nuclear disarmament in good faith.

"This latest Chinese test clearly violates the positive spirit that led to the indefinite extension, supported by China, of the NPT just three days ago. Canada calls on China to cease all further testing and to adhere to the nuclear testing moratoria observed by the other nuclear weapons states," said Mr. Ouellet.

Negotiations on a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) are ongoing at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. In an agreed Statement of Principles at last week's NPT Extension Conference, states parties called for these negotiations to be concluded by 1996. In the interim, nuclear weapons states were requested to exercise restraint in testing. China joined the 175 states parties present at the Conference in adopting these principles.

The Chinese Ambassador to Canada was called in to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade today to receive a strong protest from Canada about the nuclear test. The Canadian Ambassador in Beijing has been instructed to deliver the same message directly to Chinese authorities.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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