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NEW INITIATIVES IN ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today new initiatives in arms control and disarmament.

These initiatives underline the continuity of Canadian arms control and disarmament policy and reinforce the Government's commitment to the pursuit of verifiable agreements to limit and reduce forces. They are directly related to two specific Canadian priorities: to promote the realization of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty; and to assist in the preparation of a chemical weapons convention. They also include a substantial increase in the Disarmament Fund of the Department of External Affairs. This increase will permit a broadening of research and public information activities which have formed an important part of Canadian policy and which have been a response to the recommendations in the Final Document of the first U.N. Special Session on Disarmament.

In the balance of the current financial year, that is up to March 31, 1983, a total of \$300,000 has been allocated in addition to the existing Disarmament Fund of \$150,000. In the next financial year there will be a further substantial increase.

Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB)

Part of the international verification provisions of a CTB will be an International Seismic Data Exchange. Canada has been playing an active role for the past six years in the development of the exchange carried out in the Ad Hoc Group of Seismological Experts under the aegis of the