



No. 190

October 5, 1993

BEATTY CRITICIZES CHINESE NUCLEAR TEST

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty today expressed Canada's deep concern and profound disappointment at China's detonation of a nuclear device at its testing facility in Xinjiang. Canada has urged China on numerous occasions not to engage in nuclear testing.

"I very much regret that efforts by Canada, in concert with like-minded countries, were unsuccessful in deterring China from testing."

Mr. Beatty noted that by testing a nuclear device at this time, China has failed to demonstrate the leadership that is essential on the part of nuclear powers in international non-proliferation efforts.

"There is an international consensus that testing should be put behind us with other relics of the Cold War," he went on to say. "It would be tragic if the Chinese test led to an unravelling of that consensus."

Canada and other countries have been impressed by China's dynamic economic growth and its recent opening to the outside world. Mr. Beatty added, however, that one of the most important prerequisites for long-term growth is global peace and security.

"On the eve of negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, China has ignored world opinion," he said. "I again urge China to join all other countries in ceasing nuclear testing immediately, and to contribute positively to the negotiation of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty."

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