



communiqué

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VERIFICATION OF A NUCLEAR TEST BAN: UPGRADING OF YELLOWKNIFE SEISMIC ARRAY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that the Government has agreed to provide \$3.2 million during the period 1986-1989 to upgrade the Yellowknife seismic array as a major Canadian contribution to monitoring an eventual comprehensive nuclear test ban (CTB).

The achievement of a CTB is a fundamental Canadian objective which Canada promotes multilaterally within the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva. Canada has played a particularly prominent role in verification, a central issue in which seismic technology is the key. Since 1976, scientists from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources have participated in the international group of seismic experts in the CD working on technical aspects of a world-wide exchange of seismic data. Canada's leadership is internationally recognized in this area.

Yellowknife is recognized as a unique and sensitive location to monitor global seismic events including underground nuclear tests. Updating and modernization of the Yellowknife seismic array, which consists of a series of short period and long period seismometers, will enable Canada to contribute to an international system which will constitute an essential monitoring element of a negotiated CTB using the best technology available.

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