PRESS RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honurable Paul Martin, today made the following statement on the explosion of a second nuclear device by communist China:

"This new atmospheric explosion has unfortunately been xpected for some time as a part of the Chinese nuclear programme, and thus does not come as a surprise. I must, however, stress the egret and concern with which this news is received by the Canadan Government. We in Canada deplore this further contamination of the world's atmosphere, which has taken place in the face of operation from public opinion and governments in all parts of the orld.

This second explosion adds even greater urgency to the need for universal adherence to the Treaty banning nuclear weaters in the atmosphere, in cuter space and under water/for ubstantial and early progress in the direction of general disarmment. As a treaty of general and complete disarmament must in the ad embrace all nations, or at least all major military nations, it sour continuing hope that Taking will eventually support the important efforts being made to work towards such a treaty.

If the authorities in Peking expect, through nuclear esting, to increase their influence on other countries of Asia, I ppe they will soon realize that such efforts are subject to the aw of diminishing returns and will move to bring their testing clicy into line with that favoured by China's great Asian neighbors. Countries like India and Japan will, I know, continue to elieve that nuclear programmes for peaceful purposes are of greater than the economic wellbeing of their people and of the world as whole than nuclear programmes directed towards military purposes.