

News Release

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DISTINGUISHED CANADIAN TO HEAD

U.N. ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, is pleased to welcome the appointment of Maurice Strong as Secretary-General of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Javier Perez de Cuellar, U.N. Secretary-General, spoke with Canada's Permanent Representative to the UN last evening to inform him of his decision.

"We are delighted that so distinguished and respected a Canadian has been appointed to head this important conference," said Mr. Clark. "Mr. Strong brings to this post a unique blend of practical experience and deep-felt commitment to environmentally-sustainable economic development. He is universally highly regarded for his pioneering work in developing public awareness of the grave threats to our global environment."

Currently Environmental Adviser to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Mr. Strong's close identification with environmental issues stretches back more than two decades. He was appointed Secretary-General of the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 and then became the first Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, based in Nairobi, Kenya from 1973 to 1975.

Among his many other accomplishments, Mr. Strong served as the first President of the Canadian International Development Agency, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Petro-Canada and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre.

The U.N. Conference on the Environment and Development will be held in Brazil over a two-week period. It will coincide with World Environment Day, June 5, 1992.

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