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CANADA ELECTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Canada has been elected to a three-year term at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The election took place on May 26 at the meeting of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, in which one-third of the seats of the Commission were filled. Elected along with Canada were the following countries: Bangladesh, Belgium, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Ethiopia, India, Morocco, Swaziland, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The Commission on Human Rights, which consists of representatives of forty-three member states of the United Nations, is the key co-ordinating and policy body in the human rights field in the United Nations system. Canada last served on the Commission between 1976 and 1984. In announcing Canada's election, Mr. Clark emphasized the importance the Government attached to human rights and his determination to use Canada's membership in the Commission to move forward on a number of international human rights issues of interest to Canada and Canadians. Canada will assume its seat when the Commission next meets in February, 1989, in Geneva.

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