



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

No: 88  
No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
RELEASE: OCTOBER 15, 1980

## DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, is pleased to announce the following appointment.

J. Alan Beesley, 53, born in British Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Law of the Sea Conference, New York.

Mr. Beesley received his legal degree from the University of British Columbia (B.A. and LL.B) and practiced as a lawyer for five years before joining the Department of External Affairs in 1956. He has served abroad in Tel Aviv and Geneva and as Canadian Ambassador to Austria from 1973 to 1976. He was also, at this time, Canada's Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Canadian Governor to the Board of Governors to the IAEA, as well as Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. In 1974 he was appointed Queen's Counsel and, before being appointed to his present position in 1977 as High Commissioner to Australia and later concurrently accredited to the Governments of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, Mr. Beesley was Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs and Departmental Legal Adviser.

In 1973, in conjunction with his other duties, Mr. Beesley was appointed special adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the Law of the Sea as well as Deputy Head of Canada's Law of the Sea Delegation. He has played an active role in the Law of the Sea negotiations since their inception, reflecting the deep interest which Canada, as a country with one of the longest ocean coastlines in the world, and with major management and conservation concerns for its off-shore fisheries and mineral resources, has in seeing that the continuing Law of the Sea negotiations are brought to a successful conclusion.