



# PRESS RELEASE ✓

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

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## STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR TESTS

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONCERNED BY THE INTENSITY OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING PROGRAMME OF THE SOVIET UNION DURING RECENT WEEKS. THAT PROGRAMME HAS INVOLVED NUMEROUS EXPLOSIONS IN RAPID SUCCESSION INCLUDING SOME OF THE LARGEST SIZE AND HAS LED TO AN OBSERVABLE SHARP RISE IN THE BACKGROUND RADIATION IN THE LATITUDES IN WHICH CANADA IS SITUATED. THE GOVERNMENT IS DISPOSED TO REGARD WITH FAVOUR ANY SOVIET ACTION WHICH WOULD MODIFY THEIR POLICY OF INTENSIFYING THE RATE OF TESTING. TO THE EXTENT THAT IT MAY RESULT IN A HALT IN THE RISE IN RADIATION WHICH HAS BEEN CAUSED BY THE SPEED-UP IN SOVIET WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE REPORT THAT THE SOVIET UNION INTENDS TO CEASE CARRYING OUT TESTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AT THE SAME TIME, IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT UNCERTAINTY OVER THE VERIFICATION OF TESTS, THE REST OF THE WORLD CANNOT BE ASSURED, IN THE ABSENCE OF SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION, THAT IN FACT NO FURTHER TESTS ARE BEING PREPARED AND CONDUCTED BY THE SOVIET UNION.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IN THIS MATTER IS CONSISTENT WITH ITS PREVIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS NUCLEAR TESTS AS WELL AS TOWARDS ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UNILATERAL ACTION IN THE DISARMAMENT FIELD ON THE PART OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS. THE CANADIAN VIEW, WHICH WAS EMPHASIZED AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HAS BEEN THAT WHILE THE CESSATION OR SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR TESTS WOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE, IT WOULD NOT ALONE HALT, MUCH LESS REVERSE, THE NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS RACE AND THAT SOME MORE FUNDAMENTAL ACTION MUST ALSO BE AGREED UPON. THE GOVERNMENT HAS WELCOMED UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT ACTIONS