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USA NUCLEAR TESTS IN ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, released today the text of the Note which was delivered to the State Department by the Canadian Ambassador in Washington on September 19, concerning the proposed underground nuclear tests on Amchitka in the Aleutian Islands. Text follows:

"The Canadian Embassy presents its compliments to the Department of State and has the honour to refer to the proposed underground nuclear tests on Amchitka in the Aleutian Islands beginning this autumn. Concern has been expressed in Canada about possible damage or injury for Canada resulting from these tests.

The Canadian Government, having considered the technical information which was made available to Canadian experts and officials, is of the view that while precautions are being taken to prevent adverse effects which might cause injury or damage to persons or property in Canada, an element of risk of such effects cannot be entirely eliminated. In these circumstances the Canadian Government wishes to make clear that it cannot be regarded as acquiescing in the holding of these nuclear tests on Amchitka Island and the Canadian Government would have to hold the United States Government responsible for any damage or injury to Canadians, to Canadian property or to Canadian interests resulting from the tests."