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CANADIAN-SPONSORED VERIFICATION RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT UNITED NATIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that again this year, a Canadian-sponsored resolution on the role of verification in arms control agreements was adopted by consensus in the United Nations First Committee, which deals with arms control and disarmament and international security questions. The success of the Canadian-initiated resolution follows upon that of 1985, when Canada successfully promoted the first-ever United Nations resolution recognizing the importance of verification of compliance with arms control and disarmament agreements.

Mr. Clark said that the 1986 resolution, entitled "Verification in All Its Aspects", attracted even greater support among UN member states this year, with twice the number of co-sponsors as previously, including representatives from the Western states, Eastern Europe and the neutral and non-aligned nations.

Mr. Clark emphasized that the resolution will give further impetus to the consideration of verification by the United Nations, by referring the subject to the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC), a deliberative body that meets annually at the United Nations to consider a limited number of arms control and disarmament items. The UNDC is expected to draw up principles, provisions and techniques to encourage the inclusion of adequate verification provisions in arms control and disarmament agreements, and to consider ways in which United Nations member states may play a larger role in the field.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs noted that Canada's success with the verification resolution is in keeping with the Government's emphasis on the role of verification contained in the Canadian Programme of Action for the remaining half of the Disarmament Decade, which focuses on practical solutions to arms control and disarmament problems. As part of