



# communiqué

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## MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL AFFAIRS

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, today announced the convening of members drawn from the Consultative Group on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs under the chairmanship of the Ambassador for Disarmament, Mr. Douglas Roche.

The focus of the meeting, which will take place in Ottawa on April 11 and 12, will be on Canadian preparations for the third Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to be held September 2-30, 1985 in Geneva.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs said the meeting of the Consultative Group demonstrates the interest of the Government of Canada in having Canadians make their own practical contribution to the government's discussion and pursuit of arms control and disarmament measures. He referred to his address to the full Consultative Group at its most recent meeting in Ottawa, November 9-10, 1984, where he stated:

"... I hope that this Consultative Group can meet on a regular basis, supplemented by regional meetings to reach out to Canadians newly interested in arms control and disarmament. The Consultative Group can play an essential part in the Canadian dialogue: it can challenge assumptions, not just policy, and force us to examine those assumptions more closely."

The Consultative Group, which comprises over 50 interested Canadians - private individuals, members of non-governmental organizations, peace associations and universities, - was created in 1979 to give effect to recommendations of the first United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in 1978. In addition to exchanging views with officials, members of the Group may, individually or collectively, give advice to the Department through the Ambassador for Disarmament.