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AMBASSADOR FOR DISARMAMENT TO VISIT SOVIET UNION

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, today announced that Mr. Douglas Roche, Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, will visit Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev from December 8 to 14.

Mr. Roche will make a series of addresses outlining Canadian arms control policies and Canadian efforts to build international peace and security. He will also meet with officials responsible for Soviet policy in this area as well as with academics and scholars working in the arms control and disarmament field. Mr. Clark said that "Mr. Roche's visit forms part of Canada's ongoing dialogue on arms control and disarmament issues with the Soviet Union." He said the visit of Mr. Roche is in connection with Mr. Roche's role as the principal spokesman for the Canadian Government on arms control and disarmament issues and in conjunction with the UN-declared International Year of Peace in 1986.

As Ambassador for Disarmament, Mr. Roche represents Canada at international meetings concerned with arms control and disarmament questions, particularly the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Disarmament Commission in New York. Mr. Roche is also the principal contact for Canadian non-governmental organizations and persons interested in arms control and disarmament. As such he undertakes cross-Canada speaking engagements to explain Canada's position and the work done in the international forums where he represents Canada.

While in Europe, Mr. Roche will also visit Vienna for consultations with Canada's delegations to the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) talks and to the Follow-Up Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). He will also hold bilateral arms control and disarmament consultations with officials in Bonn and London.