

Disarmament Week activities reflect concern for world security

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen issued the following statement on the occasion of Disarmament Week, October 24-30:

"Disarmament Week is observed in many ways throughout the world. I am pleased that in Canada activities coast-to-coast, organized by community groups, non-governmental organizations and individuals, will not only reflect the growing concern of many Canadians about the arms race but also help to underline the vital role which arms control and disarmament negotiations play in promoting the more secure world we all desire.

"A year ago there were no negotiations on nuclear weapons. Since then, the United States and the Soviet Union have begun negotiations on intermediate range

nuclear forces and have resumed the process of talks on strategic arms. The emphasis not just on limitations but on reductions is one Canada welcomes, recognizing the complexities involved in arriving at balanced and verifiable agreements. In the case of another category of weapons of special interest to Canada — chemical weapons — the prospects for progress toward a ban in the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva are greater today than they were a year ago. Also, recent proposals at the nine-year old talks in Vienna on reducing conventional forces in Europe hold out the possibility of progress toward agreement.

Expanded activity

"The past year has seen greatly increased activity in the deliberative bodies

at the United Nations, particularly in the First Committee of the General Assembly and the second Special Session on Disarmament. Canada could not but share the disappointment of other countries that its ambitious agenda could not be realized. Yet the Special Session did focus the attention of many world leaders on arms control and disarmament issues. Equally important, it led to greater public discussion and understanding of the issues involved, of what has been accomplished in the past and of how much remains to be done. Prior to and during the Special Session, Canada devoted particular efforts to the promotion of public awareness. For example, the extensive hearings on security and disarmament in the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence led to a report which will be a valuable continuing reference, a record of a wide spectrum of Canadian views.

"To expand research and public information activities, the Disarmament Fund of the Department of External Affairs has been increased specifically to assist research and teaching facilities in Canada. In addition, funds have been allocated to enable Canada to become a member of the international seismic data exchange which will form part of the international verification provisions of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. Canada will also substantially increase research in verification utilizing expertise available inside and outside of government.

"Disarmament Week, initiated in 1978 by the United Nations, underlines the challenge facing governments and non-governmental organizations; the promotion of greater public awareness and understanding of the importance of negotiating verifiable arms control and disarmament agreements."

New Ambassador for Disarmament

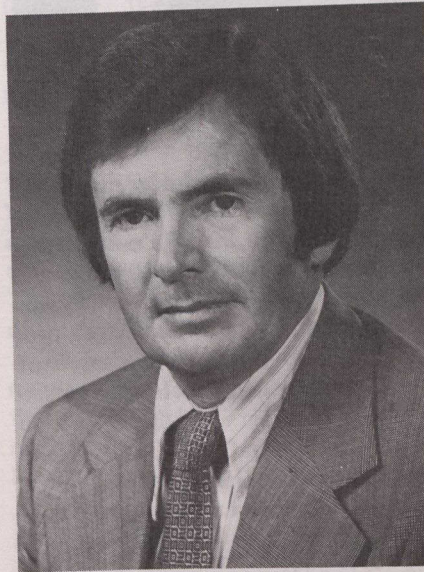
J. Alan Beesley, Q.C. has been appointed Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, replacing Arthur Menzies who has retired.

The establishment of the position, announced in the speech from the Throne two years ago, reflects the importance the government attaches to international efforts to negotiate verifiable agreements on arms control and disarmament. Mr. Beesley will represent Canada at certain international meetings concerned with arms control and disarmament including the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and the UN Disarmament Commission. He will also be the liaison for Canadian non-government organizations and individuals outside government interested in arms control and disarmament. In this capacity he will undertake speaking engagements across Canada to explain Canadian positions on arms control and disarmament and the work of international forums in which he represents Canada.

Mr. Beesley, who joined the Department of External Affairs in 1956, has served in Tel Aviv and Geneva, and as Ambassador to Austria, and concurrently as Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), from 1973-76. He was High Commissioner to Australia,

lia, with concurrent accreditation to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, from 1977-80.

In Ottawa Mr. Beesley has served as Assistant Under-Secretary and twice as the Department of External Affairs legal adviser. In 1973, in conjunction with his other duties, Mr. Beesley was appointed special adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the law of the sea as well as deputy head of Canada's law of the sea delegation. Since 1980 he has been Ambassador to the Law of the Sea Conference in New York and he will continue to represent Canada at this conference until the signing ceremony in December 1982.



J. Alan Beesley

Michael Bedford photography

Canada-US jetfoil service

A twice-daily jetfoil service between Victoria, British Columbia and Seattle, Washington is scheduled to begin in early April 1983.

The \$8.75-million project is being planned by Island Jetfoil Investments, which is now looking for investors.

The jetfoil, a 27.4-metre craft made in Seattle by Boeing, is "light years ahead of anything else", said Island Jetfoil Investments President Stewart Vinnels. It will be able to transport as many as 300 people on the 72-nautical-mile journey in one hour and 55 minutes. A one-way fare will cost \$45.