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CANADA APPOINTS AMBASSADOR FOR MARINE CONSERVATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Alan Beesley has been appointed Ambassador for Marine Conservation with responsibility for coordinating Canadian government efforts to end foreign overfishing in the Northwest Atlantic. Mr. Beesley is the Minister's Special Adviser on Environmental Affairs and also an internationally known authority on Law of the Sea.

"Mr. Beesley will be the lead official in Canada's efforts to press the European Economic Community (EC) to comply with measures designed to protect Northwest Atlantic fish stocks from the damage caused by current overfishing practices. Mr. Beesley's outstanding background in environmental affairs and Law of the Sea make him uniquely suited for this important task," stated Mr. Clark.

Mr. Beesley's mandate is to marshal the Government of Canada's resources towards resolving the foreign overfishing problem, in co-operation with provincial governments and representatives of the industry and fishermen, toward the goal of ending foreign overfishing.

In this task, Mr. Beesley will report directly to Minister Clark, International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and Fisheries and Oceans Minister Tom Siddon. He will draw on all the talent and resources that he needs from the Departments of External Affairs and International Trade and Fisheries and Oceans.

Mr. Beesley's career has included the practice of law and he has served Canada as Ambassador to Austria, High Commissioner to Australia, Ambassador to the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference in New York, Ambassador for Disarmament and Head of the Delegation to the United Nations Seabed Preparatory

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada

Commission, and Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Office of the United Nations as well as to the Conference on Disarmament and the Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva. He is a member of the Order of Canada and recipient of the Outstanding Public Service Award.

Canada is actively pressing the EC to stop overfishing in the Northwest Atlantic in waters outside Canada's 200-mile fishing zone. Canada also wants the EC to join with the other members of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) in adopting scientifically-based fishing conservation decisions and quotas for 1990 in the Northwest Atlantic.

The federal government is broadening its diplomatic, political and public information initiatives on the overfishing problem, building on the ongoing efforts of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Mr. Clark, Mr. Crosbie, and Mr. Siddon.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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