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NEW INITIATIVES IN ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today new initiatives in arms control and disarmament.

These initiatives underline the continuity of Canadian arms control and disarmament policy and reinforce the Government's commitment to the pursuit of verifiable agreements to limit and reduce forces. They are directly related to two specific Canadian priorities: to promote the realization of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty; and to assist in the preparation of a chemical weapons convention. They also include a substantial increase in the Disarmament Fund of the Department of External Affairs. This increase will permit a broadening of research and public information activities which have formed an important part of Canadian policy and which have been a response to the recommendations in the Final Document of the first U.N. Special Session on Disarmament.

In the balance of the current financial year, that is up to March 31, 1983, a total of \$300,000 has been allocated in addition to the existing Disarmament Fund of \$150,000. In the next financial year there will be a further substantial increase.

Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB)

Part of the international verification provisions of a CTB will be an International Seismic Data Exchange. Canada has been playing an active role for the past six years in the development of the exchange carried out in the Ad Hoc Group of Seismological Experts under the aegis of the

Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. Some countries are already exchanging data on a provisional basis. In several months, Canada will be able to join these countries and, therefore, to be a full member of the Exchange from the outset. Canada has called for the early implementation of the Exchange in advance of a treaty.

Chemical Weapons (CW) BAN

Canada has been playing an active role in the CW Working Group of the Committee on Disarmament since its inception three years ago. A Canadian technical expert has been made available to the Canadian delegation in Geneva for brief periods.

Henceforth it will be possible to provide an expert for longer periods as and when warranted, thereby more effectively applying internationally recognized Canadian expertise in defensive measures in the course of negotiations on a treaty banning chemical weapons.

Research and Public Information

The increase in the Disarmament Fund will be used to assist research and teaching facilities in Canada through contributions and contracts. An initial step already underway is to provide depository libraries in Canada with the documents of the multilateral negotiating body in Geneva for the years 1974-1980, which most are missing, in order that they may have complete sets available to researchers. A second early step will be to increase assistance to research projects, which until now has been a relatively small part of the programme under the Disarmament Fund. As the Fund continues to grow in the next financial year, the programme will include assistance directed to enhancing teaching on arms control and disarmament.