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ARTHUR MENZIES TAKES UP HIS APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR FOR DISARMAMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced today that Mr. Arthur Menzies has taken up his appointment as Ambassador for Disarmament.

The creation of this new position was announced in the Speech from the Throne and builds on the decision two years ago to appoint an Adviser on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs in response to the programme of action agreed at the Special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly. At the mid-point between that Session and a further Special Session scheduled for 1982, the appointment of an Ambassador for Disarmament marks the beginning of Canadian preparations for the next Special Session. It also reflects the importance the Government attaches to international efforts to negotiate verifiable agreements on arms control and disarmament.

He will also hold the title of Special Adviser on Disarmament and Arms Control Affairs. Based at headquarters, he will have general responsibility for the formulation of policies bearing on arms control and disarmament issues, and will remain the chief liaison point for non-governmental organizations and individuals outside the Government interested in these questions. The fund established in 1979 to encourage research and stimulate information activities will be continued.

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As Ambassador, he will normally represent Canada on international bodies concerned with arms control and disarmament, including the General Assembly and the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

He is currently in New York for this year's session of the United Nations General Assembly where he is Canada's representative on the First Committee which deals with arms control and disarmament.

Note: Mr. Menzies will be delivering the Canadian statement in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on October 27, 1980.