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GEORGE IGNATIEFF TAKES UP HIS APPOINTMENT AS
AMBASSADOR FOR DISARMAMENT

The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Jean Chrétien, announced today that Mr. George Ignatieff has been appointed to the position of Ambassador for Disarmament and Adviser to the Government on Disarmament.

This appointment, announced by the Prime Minister on August 17, 1984 in Winnipeg, provides a successor for Mr. J. Alan Beesley, who was Ambassador for Disarmament from October 1982 to August 1983 and was then appointed to the position of Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva and to the Conference on Disarmament. Ambassador Beesley will continue in these latter functions.

As Ambassador for Disarmament and Adviser to the Government on Disarmament, Mr. Ignatieff will represent Canada at international meetings concerned with arms control and disarmament, particularly the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Disarmament Commission in New York. He will also be the principal point of contact for Canadian non-governmental organizations and persons interested in arms control and disarmament. As such he will undertake cross-Canada speaking engagements to explain Canada's position and the work done in the international forums where he represents Canada.

Mr. Ignatieff's vast international experience in the area of peace and security makes him the ideal candidate for this important function of Ambassador for Disarmament.

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Born in St. Petersburg, Russia, Mr. Ignatieff, who is 71, obtained Canadian citizenship on September 21, 1935. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Economics from the University of Toronto (Trinity College). A Rhodes Scholar in 1935, he has a Master's Degree from New College, Oxford. He joined the External Affairs Department in 1940, after enrolling in 1939. He was assigned to London, to the United Nations and some of its organizations, then to Washington; he then represented Canada as Ambassador to Yugoslavia, Deputy High Commissioner to London, Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Permanent Representative to the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, and Permanent Representative of Canada to the European Office of the United Nations and to other UN organizations in Geneva. Mr. Ignatieff was Dean of Trinity College from 1972 to 1978, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Museums of Canada from 1973 to 1978, and President of the United Nations Association of Canada from 1980 to 1982. He has also been Chancellor of the University of Toronto since 1980.