



communiqué

N°:
No.: 218

December 16, 1986.

CANADIAN ELECTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

The Department of External Affairs is pleased to announce the election, at the current session of the United Nations General Assembly, of Mr. J. Alan Beesley, O.C., Q.C., to the International Law Commission (ILC).

The Commission, established in 1947, consists of 34 members from all regions of the world who are elected and sit in their personal capacity as experts. The members are persons of recognized competence in international law and they have a mandate to encourage "the progressive development of international law and its codification".

The ILC is the most important body in the international system for the development of international law and much of its work has formed the basis for the negotiation and adoption of important treaties and conventions.

Mr. Beesley has had a long and distinguished career in Canada's Foreign Service. He has been involved in international law-making in such areas as the Law of Treaties Conference, the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, the Third Law of the Sea Conference (where he served as chairman of the Drafting Committee), and the Chemical Weapons Convention. His diplomatic experience includes service as Ambassador to Austria, High Commissioner to Australia and full-time Ambassador to the Law of the Sea Conference. He received the Prime Minister's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1983 and was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1984. He is currently Ambassador and Permanent Representative

of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament and Canadian Representative to the GATT Secretariat.

Marcel Cadieux, O.C., Q.C., was the last Canadian to serve on the ILC in 1962-66. With his rich background in law and diplomacy, Mr. Beesley will be in a good position to make an important contribution to the Commission's work in the development of international law.

With 123 votes, Mr. Beesley came first among the 8 successful Western candidates. His election is a tribute not only to his own outstanding qualities but also to Canada's reputation as a strong supporter of the rule of law in international relations.