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VISIT OF MR. YASUSHI AKASHI, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations, will be visiting Ottawa April 13-14.

During his visit Mr. Akashi will discuss United Nations activities in the field of arms control and disarmament with the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament and officials of the Departments of External Affairs and National Defence. He will also meet with representatives from non-governmental organizations and the media.

After serving as Under-Secretary-General for Public Information for the United Nations since 1979, Mr. Akashi assumed his current position on March 1, 1987 as head of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs. He is expected to outline his views on the present and future role of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament with special reference to preparations for a third Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament and the upcoming International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development. Discussions will also address on-going United Nations activities under his jurisdiction, including the World Disarmament Campaign, the United Nations Disarmament Commission, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, and the work of the First Committee on political and security issues of the United Nations General Assembly.

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The visit will provide occasion for a reaffirmation of the commitment of the Canadian Government to United Nations disarmament activities. Canada is a major contributor of funds in this area and on April 3 was presented with a United Nations commemorative medal for its contribution to the International Year of Peace in 1986.