



communiqué

N^o:
No.: 136

October 5, 1984.

APPOINTMENT OF DOUGLAS J. ROCHE

AS AMBASSADOR FOR DISARMAMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Mr. Douglas J. Roche has been appointed to the position of Ambassador for Disarmament.

The previous Ambassador for Disarmament, Mr. George Ignatieff has informed the Government that he welcomes Mr. Roche's appointment. When Mr. Ignatieff was named in August, he indicated that because of his obligations as Chancellor of the University of Toronto, he would be in a position to carry out the responsibilities of the position only on a part-time basis. The Secretary of State for External Affairs and Mr. Roche are most grateful that Mr. Ignatieff has volunteered to provide advice to them on the full range of arms control and disarmament issues, and related foreign policy questions.

As Ambassador for Disarmament, Mr. Roche 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 may also attend meetings of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva from time to time, although Mr. J. Alan Beesley will remain the Canadian Permanent Representative to the Conference. Mr. Roche 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.

...2...

Born in Montréal, Québec, Mr. Roche (55) was, before entering Parliament, a journalist and lecturer and, from 1965 to 1977, the founding editor of the "Western Catholic Reporter" of Edmonton. He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1972 for Edmonton-Strathcona, was re-elected in 1974, and again in 1979 and 1980. Between 1977 and 1979, Mr. Roche was the Progressive Conservative Spokesman on External Affairs. In 1979, he became Chairman of the Progressive Conservative Caucus Committee on External Affairs and was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1979. He was a Canadian Delegate to the 34th General Assembly of the United Nations. He served for four years, from 1980 to 1984, as the International Chairman of Parliamentarians for World Order. He was named, in 1980, the Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Task Force on North-South Relations. In 1982, he was appointed a consultant to the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament. He was awarded the 1983 Peace Award of the World Federalists of Canada. In 1984, he was elected President of the United Nations Association in Canada. Mr. Roche is the author of books and articles on politics, development assistance, and disarmament, including Justice not Charity: A New Global Ethic for Canada, The Human Side of Politics, and United Nations: Divided World.