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ALAN BEESLEY TAKES UP HIS APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR FOR DISARMAMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen announced today that J. Alan Beesley, Q.C. has been appointed Ambassador for Disarmament.

The establishment of the position of Ambassador for Disarmament, announced in the speech from the Throne two years ago, reflects the importance the Government attaches to international efforts to negotiate verifiable agreements on arms control and disarmament. As Ambassador for Disarmament, Mr. Beesley will represent Canada at certain international meetings concerned with arms control and disarmament including the First Committee of the UN General Assembly and the UN Disarmament Commission. He will also be the chief liaison point for Canadian non-government organizations and individuals outside of Government interested in arms control and disarmament. In this capacity he will undertake speaking engagements across Canada to explain Canadian positions on arms control and disarmament and the work of international forums in which he represents Canada.

Born in British Columbia, Mr. Beesley (55) received his legal degree from the University of British Columbia (B.A. and LL.B.) and practised as a lawyer for five years before joining the Department of External Affairs in 1956. He has served abroad in Tel Aviv, and Geneva, and as Ambassador to Austria, and concurrently as Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), from 1973-76. He was High Commissioner to Australia, with

concurrent accreditation to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, from 1977-80. In Ottawa he has served as Assistant Under Secretary and twice as Departmental Legal Adviser. In 1973, in conjunction with his other duties, Mr. Beesley was appointed special adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the Law of the Sea as well as Deputy Head of Canada's Law of the Sea Delegation. Since 1980 he has been Ambassador to the Law of the Sea Conference in New York. He will continue to represent Canada at this Conference until the Signing Ceremony in December 1982, concurrently with his new functions as Ambassador for Disarmament. Mr. Beesley, who will reside in New York, is replacing Mr. Arthur Menzies who has retired.