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APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, has announced the appointment of a senior official of the Department of External Affairs, Kenneth Williamson, as Coordinator for the United Nations Special Session devoted to Disarmament. The Canadian Government believes that the Special Session, which will be held in New York from May 23 to June 28, 1978, will provide an opportunity for the international community to give new impetus to the efforts to achieve more rapid and more effective progress in curbing and reversing the arms race. It intends to play its full part in making the deliberations of the Special Session as fruitful as possible.

The Government considers it important that Canadian public opinion about disarmament and the views of those with expert knowledge and particular concern about international developments in this field should be fully taken into account in the formulation of Canadian policy on issues before the Special Session. Mr. Williamson will be responsible for ensuring that close contact is maintained with interested groups and individuals by a variety of means: personal contact, participation in meetings and discussions with consultative panels composed of individuals with expertise in this field.

KENNETH BRYCE WILLIAMSON

Mr. Williamson was born in Winnipeg in 1922 and attended the Universities of Manitoba and Toronto. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1947. Between then and 1970 he served in missions in Rome, Prague, Santiago and Berlin, where he was Deputy Head of the Canadian Military Mission from 1962-65. Assignments in Ottawa during this period included the position of Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (1965-67) and head of a new unit created in 1967 to develop closer relations with Canadian universities in fields relevant to external relations. Since 1970 he has been Minister dealing with political affairs in the Embassy in Washington and then Ambassador to Turkey from where he returned in 1977.