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JOINT PRESS RELEASE ON THE
CANADA-INDIA CONSULTATIONS
JULY 29-31

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The India-Canada talks held in Ottawa from July 29 to 31 were both a continuation of the bilateral consultations that were held in New Delhi in November, 1973, and an outcome of the invitation of the Prime Minister of Canada to the Prime Minister of India.

The Indian Delegation was led by Mr. Kewal Singh, Foreign Secretary (Deputy Minister), Ministry of External Affairs and assisted by Mr. U. Bajpai, High Commissioner for India in Ottawa. In addition to having discussions with Mr. A. E. Ritchie, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, President of CIDA, Mr. Kewal Singh had meetings with Prime Minister Trudeau, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp and Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Alastair Gillespie.

While there was useful discussion of India's economic development priorities and their response to the formidable problems created by the world-wide rise in prices of energy, fertilizer and food, the discussions centred mainly on nuclear co-operation arrangements and the different attitude of the two governments towards the use of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes.

The problem during the meetings was to explore the differences in an effort to reach agreement on which future co-operation could be based. Some of the points which had to be considered were of a nature which would not lend themselves to ready resolution and the first series of meetings should, therefore, be regarded as exploratory

and as a first step in efforts to reach understanding. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the frank exchange of views on these difficult issues in a friendly atmosphere.

It was clear from the discussions that Canada and India are both deeply concerned with the dangerous consequences of proliferation of nuclear weapons: both the increase of nuclear arsenals by the present nuclear-weapons states and the acquisition of nuclear weapons by other states. Both countries intend to contribute actively to international discussions concerning nuclear non-proliferation.

In the light of these discussions, it is expected that a further meeting will be held.

CANADIAN BACKGROUND PARAGRAPHS

The 1975 conference to review the Non-Proliferation Treaty is one in which powers which have signed, or signed and ratified, the treaty, will be taking part directly. India is not in either of these categories but we would hope the Indian government would find a way to make a major contribution to the international discussion of long-term solutions to the problem of all forms of nuclear proliferation.

The Canadian side understood that the Indians expected that it would take some time to evaluate the results of their recent test and that no schedule for further tests could be arranged before that evaluation was completed. The Canadian side observed that a possible conclusion could be that peaceful nuclear explosions were not economically viable, and that further tests would not be useful. The Canadian side expressed the hope that India would contribute to the success of international efforts to strengthen and improve the non-proliferation prospects by refraining from any further testing at least until after the conference to review the Non-Proliferation Treaty has been held and governments have had an opportunity to examine and act upon its recommendations.

In the field of development co-operation, the earlier decision of the Canadian government to suspend co-operation in the nuclear field and to concentrate its aid to India during the current year largely in the food and agricultural areas is being maintained.