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SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE,
VIENNA, AUSTRIA -- AUGUST 9-21

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announced today that Canada will participate in the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which will take place in Vienna, Austria, August 9-21. The delegation will be headed by the Honourable John Roberts, minister of State for Science and Technology.

The UNISPACE Conference will bring developments in space science and technology to the attention of all countries, particularly the developing countries, and show how this technology can be applied to problems of national development. The Conference will also consider how international cooperation in this area can be strengthened.

Canada, a world leader in space technologies such as domestic satellite communications and remote sensing for resource management, views the Conference as a unique opportunity for countries to share experiences and examine how these applications can best be used. Canada was the third nation in the world with a satellite in orbit and this year commemorates the 20th anniversary of the launch of the Allouette I. ANIK-D, the first commercial communications satellite built in Canada, is due to be launched this month. Over the past year, the widely acclaimed Canadarm has been tested in space several times.

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Accompanying the Conference will be an exhibition of space technology demonstrating Canadian industrial and technological capabilities in the space sector as well as our expertise in applications. A satellite-delivered health care experiment, which will be broadcast live to the Conference hall, will demonstrate how space technology can be used to bring essential health services to remote areas.

The Canadian delegation will include representatives from the federal and provincial governments, the space industry and the university community.

The First UNISPACE conference was held in 1968.