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## CANADA URGES UNITA TO RETURN TO PEACE PROCESS

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today called on the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to return to the Angolan peace process. She also reaffirmed Canada's support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and observers to the Bicesse Peace Accords (the United States, Portugal and Russia) to restart direct talks between UNITA and the Angolan government.

"Canada is gravely concerned by UNITA's flouting of the peace accords and their failure to participate in direct negotiations to achieve a cease-fire," said Mrs. McDougall. "UNITA must understand that their present course of action can only lead to further condemnation and isolation by the international community."

The Government of Angola and UNITA signed the Bicesse Peace Accords in May 1991, ending 16 years of civil war. The fighting resumed after UNITA rejected the results of the United Nations-supervised elections in September 1992, which the UN declared as generally free and fair. The UN has been trying to organize cease-fire negotiations, but UNITA failed to attend the latest round of talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on February 28, 1993.

"I am disturbed by reports of serious human rights violations in Angola and the prospect of a humanitarian crisis of major proportions unless a cease-fire is achieved immediately," said Mrs. McDougall. "Canada calls on both sides to the conflict to ensure the safety of non-combatants and provide security guarantees for the delivery of humanitarian assistance by international relief organizations."

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