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McDOUGALL ENDORSES UN DECISION ON WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall said today that Canada fully endorses the United Nations Security Council decision to establish an ad hoc tribunal to try charges of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

"We are very pleased with the resolution because it sends a strong message to individuals committing atrocities in the former Yugoslavia that they will be held accountable for their actions," said Mrs. McDougall. "We have been at the forefront in promoting the establishment of such a tribunal."

The Minister pressed for the principle of personal accountability for war crimes last August at the London Conference on Yugoslavia, at which Canada was the first country to propose the establishment of a war crimes tribunal. She renewed her call at the Conference session in December.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has been asked by the Security Council to prepare a report with detailed proposals for the creation of the tribunal. Member states have been asked to assist in this process.

For its part, Canada is sponsoring an international meeting of experts that will consider the establishment of an International Criminal Court and the question of an ad hoc tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Mrs. McDougall plans to address this meeting, organized by the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, which will take place in Vancouver, March 22-26.

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