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CANADA WELCOMES CONVENING OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, warmly welcomed the important progress made today towards convening a Middle East peace conference, to begin in Madrid on October 30th.

"Canada has strongly supported the efforts of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to move the peace process forward," Mrs. McDougall said. "Mr. Baker's issuing of invitations to a peace conference, jointly sponsored with the U.S.S.R., is one more positive step in that process. We believe that the successful convening of the conference marks an important milestone in re-establishing stability and peace in the Middle East."

The Minister, while noting that difficult negotiations lie ahead, encouraged all the parties involved to continue on the road to peace. "Canada sees real opportunities ahead to end decades of mutual mistrust, insecurity and fear."

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