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CANADA PARTICIPATES IN CONFLICT PREVENTION MISSION IN KOSOVO

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced today that Canada is participating in a conflict prevention mission of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in Kosovo.

"I believe the CSCE must play an essential role in promoting dialogue and conflict prevention in Kosovo," said Mrs. McDougall. "Our participation in this mission, along with Canadian contributions in peacekeeping forces and humanitarian assistance in other parts of the former Yugoslavia, reflects our deep commitment to ending the human tragedy throughout the region."

This mission is one of a series of CSCE long-duration missions to various regions of the former Yugoslavia. Other missions will be sent to Sandjak and Vojvodina. Besides promoting dialogue, easing tensions and preventing conflict, these missions will also pay close attention to the human rights situation, especially of minority groups.

Canada's representative on this mission in Kosovo is Mr. Philip Hahn, a senior officer of External Affairs and International Trade Canada. He joins a CSCE team headed by Ambassador Tore Bögh, of Norway. The mission will last three months.

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