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CANADA SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE TO END THE VIOLENCE IN BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today expressed Canada's strong support for international efforts aimed at bringing an end to the violence in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

"Despite numerous calls by the international community, the savage aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina continues unchecked, and there are continuing efforts to carve up the country by force. We call upon those responsible, inside and outside the country, to immediately stop the bloodshed," said Mrs. McDougall. "There are no doubts that Serbia is the principal, but not the only, aggressor in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Serbian President Milosevic has a major role to play in ending the violence."

At today's emergency meeting of senior officials of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), Canada joined 50 other countries in insisting that the Yugoslav army be withdrawn entirely from the country, or disarmed and disbanded, with those elements remaining subject to the legal authority of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Canada fully supports the decision to suspend Yugoslavia's participation in the CSCE on matters dealing with Bosnia-Hercegovina. In addition, Canada maintains restrictive trade measures on Serbia and other parties to the conflicts.

Mrs. McDougall indicated that Canada has no plans at present to withdraw its Ambassador from Belgrade. She cited the presence of Canadians in the region and the need to keep the lines of communication open with all parties.

The Minister added that Canada has not accepted Serbia and Montenegro's claim to be the continuing state of the former Yugoslav federation. This issue, she says, must be negotiated at the peace conference on Yugoslavia.