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McDOUGALL PRAISES KOREAN NUCLEAR DECLARATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today praised the joint declaration on a nuclear-free Korean peninsula reached between South and North Korea on December 31, 1991.

"Canada welcomes the joint declaration on nuclear matters between South and North Korea. This important event is a further milestone in the progress realized in recent months toward improving relations between the two Koreas and lessening tensions on the peninsula," said Mrs. McDougall.

In the joint declaration, South and North Korea agree that neither side will develop, possess or use nuclear weapons or possess nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities, and that nuclear energy will be used only for peaceful purposes. The declaration also provides for the creation of a joint committee that will implement inspections of nuclear facilities in both countries to verify the denuclearization of the peninsula. The declaration is to be signed by the Prime Ministers of South and North Korea on January 20 and is subject to ratification in both capitals.

Canada also welcomes North Korea's undertaking to sign a full-scope nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency in accordance with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and urges North Korea to sign and implement such an agreement without delay.

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