



No. 7

January 8, 1992

CANADA HOLDS TALKS WITH ARMENIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced that Canada intends to establish diplomatic relations with Armenia in the near future. The announcement was made during a brief working visit to Ottawa by Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian.

"Armenia can count on Canada's support as a partner and friend," said Mrs McDougall. "I look forward to deepening the ties we enjoy with this newly independent country." The Minister added that Canada plans to establish a diplomatic presence in Armenia's capital, Yerevan.

During his visit, Mr. Hovannisian met with senior officials of External Affairs and International Trade Canada. They discussed Armenia's plans to comply with existing arms control, disarmament and other international agreements, and to adhere to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) documents, particularly regarding full respect for human rights and the protection of minorities.

Canada has recognized Armenia and the other former Soviet republics as independent states.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874