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McDOUGALL URGES CALM AND RECONCILIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall, on behalf of the Government of Canada, expressed condolences to the family of Chris Hani, whose funeral is to be held Monday. Mr. Hani, a member of the African National Congress's National Executive Council, and a key leader in the fight against apartheid, was assassinated on April 10.

"We were shocked by the tragic death of Mr. Hani," said Mrs. McDougall. "Only days before his death, Mr. Hani called for peace and a renewed commitment to negotiated change in South Africa. It is particularly sad that this murder occurred when the achievement of a non-racial democracy appears to be in sight."

Mrs. McDougall appealed to all South Africans to ensure that Monday's funeral for Mr. Hani be a solemn occasion marking the passing of a leader who stood for democratic and peaceful change. The Minister expressed the hope that Mr. Hani's death and the senseless violence of the past week will not lead to further conflict or undermine the significant progress made in the recently resumed multiparty talks.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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