



No. 5

January 8, 1993

CANADA CALLS FOR AN END TO THE FIGHTING IN ANGOLA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today called for an immediate end to the fighting in Angola and urged both sides to the Angolan conflict to respect the terms of the Bicesse Peace Accord signed in May 1991.

"I am deeply concerned that this latest escalation of violence will jeopardize the efforts of the United Nations to reactivate the peace process," said Mrs. McDougall. "Canada urges both parties to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable peace by refraining from further military actions and creating the conditions necessary for direct dialogue."

During the past week, the Government of Angola has adopted a more aggressive response to the unwillingness of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to abide by the results of the elections held in September 1992. Government forces have sought to reestablish their authority in areas occupied by UNITA over the last three months. Clashes in a number of major cities and towns throughout Angola have resulted in thousands of casualties as the fighting spreads.

The Canadian Honorary Consul in Luanda reports that the few remaining Canadians in Angola are all safe. Canadians considering visiting any area in Angola outside of the capital, Luanda, are urged to postpone their travel until the situation improves.

- 30 -

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