



No. 87

April 6, 1993

CANADA URGES NORTH KOREA TO RECONSIDER ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE NPT

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today expressed Canada's full support for the statement on North Korea issued by the depositary powers of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). The joint statement, by the United States, the United Kingdom and Russia, urges North Korea to reconsider its withdrawal from the NPT and to comply fully with its Treaty commitments and its safeguards obligations, which remain in force.

"The NPT is a cornerstone of international security. It is entirely in North Korea's interest to remain as a member. Withdrawal from the NPT and refusal to permit international inspections will jeopardize stability in the Korean Peninsula and in the entire region," said Mrs. McDougall. "If Pyongyang is truly interested in good international relations -- as it claims -- this is the wrong way to go about it."

On March 12, North Korea gave the United Nations Security Council a three-month notice of withdrawal from the NPT. North Korea also refused to comply with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s request to conduct a "special inspection" of two suspected, but undeclared nuclear facilities, as provided for under its Safeguards Agreement.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA met March 30 to April 1 in Vienna. A resolution, co-sponsored by Canada and 20 other countries, passed with overwhelming support. It found North Korea in non-compliance with its Safeguards Agreement and referred the matter to the UN Security Council. Twenty-eight countries voted in favour of the resolution. Two (China and Libya) voted against and four (India, Pakistan, Vietnam and Syria) abstained.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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