

News Release

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Communiqué

Secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires
extérieures

No. 7

January 12, 1993

McDOUGALL COMMENTS ON THE BOSNIAN TALKS AND ANNOUNCES MEASURES TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF THE CONFLICT IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today welcomed the apparent progress accomplished at the peace talks on Bosnia-Hercegovina held in Geneva. She called on all Yugoslav parties and, in particular, the leaders of the Bosnian Serb community, to accept unconditionally the elements of the constitutional arrangements for that republic proposed by international mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance .

"The Geneva talks provide the best hope for peace," Mrs. McDougall said. "I urge all concerned, and notably the Serbian leadership, to bring this tragedy to an end by accepting without delay the proposals for a new constitutional arrangement for Bosnia-Hercegovina."

Mrs. McDougall will be in Paris January 13, where she will discuss the situation in Yugoslavia, as well as Iraq, with other foreign ministers gathered for the signing of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Minister also noted that External Affairs and International Trade Canada, in its continuing efforts to support the victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, is funding the secondment of nine Canadian Red Cross Society delegates to international Red Cross organizations. The nine, plus an additional five Canadian delegates who will take up new assignments in the coming weeks, are assisting in medical and relief activities for victims in the region.