



No. 153

June 29, 1991

CANADA WELCOMES CEASEFIRE IN YUGOSLAVIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today made the following statement concerning the situation in Yugoslavia:

"The Government of Canada welcomes the news that the Yugoslav federal government and the governments of Slovenia and Croatia have agreed to a ceasefire. We applaud the European Community foreign ministers whose initiative helped to make this ceasefire possible.

"Above all, what is needed at this time is peaceful dialogue among the parties involved. I can assure all Canadians that the Government is consulting widely with the international community, especially the Yugoslavs themselves. In addition, because all of Europe has a stake in the peaceful resolution of this problem, we fully support efforts to organize an emergency meeting to address this issue under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. We will participate in the emergency meeting to be held in Prague next week.

"Thousands of Canadians have expressed their concern about the situation in Yugoslavia, particularly the use of force. I sympathize with them in what is a painful and complex situation. At the same time, I encourage all Canadians of Slovenian, Croatian and Serbian descent to support the efforts being made to resolve this crisis."

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