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## CANADA CONGRATULATES ZIMBABWE ON SIGNING THE NPT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today congratulated the Republic of Zimbabwe on their signing of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

"We are very pleased that Zimbabwe has joined several of its neighbours in signing the NPT," said Mrs. McDougall. "This will add significantly to the peace and security of Southern Africa."

Canada, as one of the original signatories of the NPT, has always supported it as a unique instrument to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, while allowing access to nuclear materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes.

There are now over 140 countries that have signed the NPT. Mrs. McDougall said it now looks very promising that the two remaining countries in the area that have not yet signed the NPT will do so at an early date. Such a move would confirm the status of Southern Africa as a region composed entirely of non-nuclear weapons states.

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