



news release

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UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES TO VISIT OTTAWA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall and Minister for Employment and Immigration Bernard Valcourt today announced that Her Excellency Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, will visit Ottawa from May 18 to May 21, 1993.

Mrs. Ogata, who is a national of Japan, was elected to the post of High Commissioner for Refugees by the UN General Assembly in December 1990 and took office for a three-year period beginning in January, 1991.

While in Ottawa, Mrs. Ogata will meet with Minister Valcourt, as well as with members of Parliament and senior officials of External Affairs, Employment and Immigration Canada, the Department of National Defence and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). She will also hold discussions with several government and non-governmental organizations involved in refugee and human rights issues.

In addition, Mrs. Ogata will participate in several public events, including a ceremony at Canada's Peacekeeping Monument, where she will pay tribute to Canada's 45-year history of peacekeeping contributions. She will also deliver the inaugural lecture for the Sylvia Ostry Foundation on May 20, 1993, in which she will discuss refugee challenges for the 1990s.

Mrs. Ogata's visit is particularly timely given the UN High Commission for Refugees' (UNHCR) complex role in the crises in the former Yugoslavia, as well as in Somalia. Discussions will focus on exploring ways in which Canada can co-operate with the UNHCR toward ensuring the protection of refugees in these and other international crises.