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## CANADA WELCOMES EXPANSION OF MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today announced that Canada and the other 21 member nations of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) have reached agreement on stricter export control guidelines for ballistic missiles and related technology. The new agreement broadens restrictions on exports to cover missile systems and technology capable of delivering chemical and biological weapons, as well as nuclear warheads.

"I welcome this new agreement, which responds to increasing concerns about the proliferation of smaller, lighter missile systems, such as those we saw during the Gulf Crisis," said Mrs. McDougall. "This government has made non-proliferation one of its priority policies, and the transformation of the existing MTCR into a regime covering all weapons of mass destruction is a significant step in achieving this goal."

Since its inception in 1987, the MTCR has become a key element of international co-operation to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction, related technology and their means of delivery. This new agreement expanding the MTCR has been agreed to by Canada and the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

A joint statement issued by MTCR countries is attached.

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