

(Press Release on National Drug Strategy,
issued May 25, 1987)

TORONTO -- A \$210 million, 5-year action plan
by the federal government to curb drug abuse was launched
today by Health and Welfare Minister Jake Epp.

Building on last October's Speech from the Throne,
the federal plan will bring new resources to Canadian
initiatives in public education, treatment and
rehabilitation, law enforcement and control and research
carried out at the international, national, provincial and
community levels.

"With these initiatives Canada will continue to play
its part in the international effort against drug abuse led
by the United Nations and the World Health Organization,"
Mr. Epp said.

In a statement following his briefing of
representatives of the provincial and territorial addiction
agencies and Toronto-area community groups, the Minister
called for greater cooperation and information exchange among
all who aim to reduce drug abuse and the illegal supply of
drugs.

"Our major challenge is that, while the vast
majority of Canadians are aware of and concerned about drug
abuse, too few understand or know how to deal with it,"
Mr. Epp said. "Too few Canadians know where to turn for
accurate information, assistance and support for overcoming
this problem."

The Minister stated that the first priority is
"to communicate that action begins with awareness -- of
changing patterns in drug abuse and supply; of all the
sources of advice, expertise, and assistance; and ultimately,
of the need to take individual action."

... 2