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## CANADA CONGRATULATES SOUTH AFRICA ON SIGNING THE NPT

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

"We are very encouraged by South Africa's signing of the NPT," said Mrs. McDougall. "Coming so soon after the signatures of Zambia and Tanzania, South Africa's move should encourage other countries in the area to accede."

Many countries hope a nuclear weapons-free zone can be established in Southern Africa. Mrs. McDougall said Canada supports the creation of such a zone as a regional confidence-building measure and as a contribution to preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Canada has always supported the NPT, both as an instrument to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and as a mechanism to allow access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. South Africa becomes the 145th country to sign the NPT.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
External Affairs and International Trade Canada  
(613) 995-1874