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Beatty Welcomes Transitional Agreement in South Africa

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty welcomed the agreement reached by South Africa's multiparty forum on transitional arrangements toward a fully democratic and non-racial state. "The agreement is a very positive step and we commend all parties who worked with such dedication to reach this important stage in South Africa. The announcement today that agreement has been reached on the establishment of a Transitional Executive Council is a very welcome sign of progress. Canada, along with its Commonwealth partners, can be justifiably proud of the leadership role that they have played in encouraging the parties to reach this point," Mr. Beatty said.

Canada Commends Results of International Conference For the Protection of War Victims

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty called the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims an important step in what Canada hopes will result in broader compliance with existing international law. He also underlined its significance in focussing attention on the protection of civilian populations and their most vulnerable members, as well as peacekeepers and international relief workers. "I commend the efforts of Conference participants and their resolve to work toward the universal application of humanitarian law," said Mr. Beatty. "Respect for human rights is important in stemming the escalating violence, which is responsible for so much of the suffering throughout the world." Mr. Beatty hailed the Conference a great success, not only because the final declaration was adopted by all delegations, but also because of the positive climate of goodwill, discipline and tolerance that pervaded the meeting.

Hockin Responds to European Community Ban on Lumber Imports

The Honourable Tom Hockin, Minister for International Trade, in a letter sent to Nova Scotia Premier John Savage, stated that the Government of Canada will continue to press for changes in the European Community's (EC) import restrictions on Canadian green softwood lumber. In particular, Canada has outlined an action plan to address the EC position on the pinewood nematode issue. "I am very aware of the economic impact of the EC's action on Nova Scotia," said Mr. Hockin. "We will continue to work with the industry and provinces to maintain and secure access for our lumber producers in European markets."

Chemetics Exports to China with EDC Financing

The Honourable Tom Hockin, Minister for International Trade, announced that the Government of Canada, through EDC [Export Development Corporation], will provide financing up to US\$5.5 million in support of a sale by Chemetics International Co. Ltd. (Chemetics) to China National Instrument Import and Export Corporation. It is anticipated that 150 person years of employment in Canada will result from this sale.

Edmonton Firms Sell to China with EDC Financing

The Honourable Tom Hockin, Minister for International Trade, announced that the Government of Canada, through EDC [Export Development Corporation], will lend up to \$6.79 million to China to finance the sale of equipment and related services for a water treatment plant to be designed and commissioned by two Canadian firms. The transaction will be financed under a line of credit between EDC and the Bank of China. It is expected that 200 person years of employment will be created or sustained in Canada as a result of this sale.

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