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CANADA SIGNS CSCE CONVENTION ON CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall announced that Canada today signed the Convention on Conciliation and Arbitration of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). The Convention creates a court for CSCE states to resolve disputes through peaceful means.

Concluded on December 15, 1992 at the CSCE Council of Ministers meeting in Stockholm, the Convention comes into force after 12 countries have ratified it. It establishes a two-chamber court in Geneva that would appoint conciliators and arbitrators to assist countries, which may not have recourse to other international dispute mechanisms, to peacefully resolve their conflicts. One chamber would permit non-binding conciliation of any dispute brought to it by parties to the Convention. The other would permit binding arbitration, if both parties agree.

Canadian Ambassador to Sweden Mike Phillips signed the Convention on behalf of Canada. The Government of Sweden is the depository for the Convention.

- 30 -

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