



No. 180

September 21, 1993

BEATTY COMMENTS ON DISSOLUTION OF RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty today noted President Boris Yeltsin's statement dissolving the Russian Parliament and calling for new elections. He welcomed the President's commitment to giving the Russian people an opportunity to choose their parliament freely and democratically.

Mr. Beatty said Canadian officials are closely monitoring the situation, and the Canadian Ambassador, along with other G-7 representatives, met with Foreign Minister Kozyrev in Moscow earlier today. He said Canada will continue to seek assurances that the momentum of political and economic reforms now under way in Russia will be maintained.

The Minister pointed out that Canada has supported President Yeltsin substantially in his efforts to move Russia toward democracy and market economy, and will stand by him as he continues these efforts. Mr. Beatty added that the Government will be assessing events in the context of Canada's strong commitment to democracy and human rights.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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