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SENATOR PAT CARNEY TO REPRESENT CANADA AT SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced today that Senator Pat Carney will head the Canadian delegation to the South Pacific Forum Dialogue, to be held August 1-2, 1991 in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

The meeting will follow the annual conference of the Forum countries, which brings together all the independent states of the South Pacific, including Australia and New Zealand.

"Canada values the South Pacific Forum Dialogue as a unique opportunity to meet with the leaders of the South Pacific and to exchange views on international and bilateral issues relevant to the region," said Mrs. McDougall. "It also provides an opportunity to strengthen our relations with the South Pacific."

Canada has been a Dialogue Partner in the South Pacific Forum since 1989 and was represented by Senator Carney at the previous sessions. Other Dialogue Partners of the South Pacific Forum are the People's Republic of China, the European Community, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The South Pacific Forum was established in 1971 to provide an opportunity for independent and self-governing states of the South Pacific to discuss a wide range of common issues and problems, such as the environment, common security and trade. The Forum has no written constitution or formal rules. Decisions are reached by consensus, with no formal votes on issues being discussed.

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