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BEATTY URGES WARRING PARTIES IN BOSNIA- HERCEGOVINA TO REACH PEACE SETTLEMENT

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty today urged the warring parties in Bosnia-Hercegovina to reach a negotiated peace settlement and end the fighting.

"As the peace talks resume in Geneva, it is important that all sides make the final compromises necessary to conclude a peace accord and put an end to further bloodshed in Bosnia-Hercegovina," said Mr. Beatty. "The consequences of continued fighting this winter will be catastrophic for all Bosnians."

Mr. Beatty announced that he had written to the foreign ministers of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Croatia and Yugoslavia, stressing that there could be no military alternative to the negotiating process, and urging the Bosnian parties to approach the Geneva talks in a spirit of equity and fairness. He stressed that the parties themselves must freely agree on an acceptable political settlement.

The Minister also noted that the international community must be fully engaged in the implementation of a negotiated peace agreement. "Canada is already very active in Bosnia-Hercegovina," said Mr. Beatty. "We will consider how best we could contribute to the implementation of a negotiated settlement in light of requirements and Canadian resources."

Canada has been at the forefront of international efforts to reach a negotiated settlement on Bosnia-Hercegovina and to relieve the suffering of innocent civilians. Canadian peacekeepers have been on the ground in Bosnia since re-opening Sarajevo airport in June 1992, and Canadian military aircraft have delivered more than 12 000 tonnes of relief supplies to the besieged capital. Canada's contribution now exceeds \$118 million in direct and indirect costs, including humanitarian assistance to the former Yugoslavia of \$38 million.

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