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McDOUGALL WELCOMES DELAY IN U.S. VISA LEGISLATION FOR FOREIGN ENTERTAINERS AND ATHLETES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today welcomed legislation, passed by Congress on September 26, delaying implementation of provisions in the 1990 U.S. Immigration Act. The provisions, restricting entry into the United States by foreign entertainers and professional athletes, were originally to come into effect on October 1. They have now been delayed until April 1992.

"I am very encouraged by the recognition that the U.S. Immigration Act creates problems for foreign performers and for the American audiences who want to have these entertainers in their communities," said Mrs. McDougall. "The Canadian government, members of the Canadian entertainment community and many of their colleagues in the United States have actively campaigned for this delay. I am sure there will be relief on all sides."

Mrs. McDougall had written to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker expressing concern that the proposed legislation would restrict the number of Canadians able to perform in the United States. The Canadian Embassy in Washington has actively pressed for the delay, as have Canadian posts throughout the United States.

The six-month delay will give Congress time to consider amending legislation to change the restrictive aspects of the 1990 Act.

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