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MCDUGALL TO ATTEND NATO MEETINGS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced that she will attend a meeting of NATO's North Atlantic Council (NAC) in Brussels on December 19. She will also attend the inaugural meeting of the new North Atlantic Co-operation Council (NACC), which is made up of the 16 NATO member-countries, as well as nine countries from Central and Eastern Europe.

"My meetings in Brussels allow for important consultations with our allies and new Eastern European partners on the continuing changes in Europe and the Soviet Union," said Mrs. McDougall. "It will also allow us to review international efforts to end the tragedy in Yugoslavia."

The meeting of the NACC follows the decision taken at the NATO Summit in Rome in November to develop a more institutional relationship of consultation and co-operation on political and security issues with Europe's new democracies. The nine countries participating along with the NATO members are Bulgaria, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union.

Mrs. McDougall also announced that, while in Brussels, she will meet Hans van den Broek, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and Frans Andriessen, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities responsible for external relations, to discuss Canada's relations with the European Communities in the context of the implementation of their Transatlantic Declaration of November 1990.

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