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CANADA, U.K. AND U.S. COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATLANTIC CHARTER

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced that Canada, Great Britain and the United States will participate in activities in Newfoundland to mark the 50th anniversary of the Atlantic Charter.

The Honourable John C. Crosbie, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, will represent Canada at commemorative ceremonies which will take place in Argentia, Newfoundland, on Sunday, August 11, 1991. The British High Commissioner, Brian Fall, and the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, Edward Ney, will represent their respective countries.

In August 1941, at the height of World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt travelled by warship in utmost secrecy to meet in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, where they concluded an agreement on wartime co-operation between Great Britain and the U.S. This accord, which became known as the Atlantic Charter, enunciated basic principles which the Allies hoped would govern the post-war world.

"The meeting of these two great men in Newfoundland has been called one of the most dramatic encounters of the war," said Mrs. McDougall. "The principles of non-aggression, sovereignty and prosperity enunciated in the Atlantic Charter went on to form an integral part of important documents such as the United Nations Charter."