



No. 173

September 11, 1993

## BEATTY TO ATTEND SIGNING OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT ON SELF-RULE

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty will represent Canada at the historic signing ceremony of the bilateral agreement on Palestinian self-rule between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The signing ceremony will take place in Washington on Monday, September 13, 1993.

Canada's presence at the ceremony reflects the continuing Canadian commitment to the pursuit of peace in the Middle East over the past 45 years, from peacekeeping and aid efforts, right up to its present responsibility in the multilateral phase of the peace process launched in 1991.

"Canadians are proud to share in this moment of achievement. Since 1948, when Canada chaired the UN committee that led to the creation of the state of Israel, Canada has been deeply engaged in the search for a just and lasting peace, which would guarantee the security of Israel and realize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. All Canadians admire the leadership of the Government of Israel and the PLO for their courageous steps toward a future of hope and peace for their peoples," Mr. Beatty said.

Canada will continue its active participation in the peace process, especially in the multilateral negotiations, as gavel holder (or chair) for the Working Group on Refugees, which will meet in Tunis, Tunisia, from October 12 to 14.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
External Affairs and International Trade Canada  
(613) 995-1874