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CANADA CONDEMNS CROATIAN RESPONSE TO UN RESOLUTION 802 AND RENEWS CALL FOR TIGHTER EMBARGO ON SERBIA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today condemned the Croatian government reaction to United Nations Security Council Resolution 802, and renewed Canada's call for more stringent measures to ensure respect of the UN embargo on Serbia/Montenegro.

"The military operations undertaken by Croatia since January 22 are in direct violation of its commitment to a cease-fire agreement and constitute a most disturbing development in the crisis in that country," said the Minister. "The UN Security Council adopted a clear resolution on January 25, which demands that Croatian forces be withdrawn to where they were before the attack, and that Croatian Serbs immediately return to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) the heavy weapons that they have seized."

Mrs. McDougall expressed her concern that these developments may compromise the efforts undertaken by the international community to reach a peaceful settlement in Croatia. Canada strongly urges political negotiations to implement the "Vance Plan" in Croatia, including the demilitarization of Serbian-held territories in Croatia and the return of internally displaced persons.

Mrs. McDougall also condemned the violations of the sanctions regime against Serbia-Montenegro, particularly on the Danube, and called on Romania and Bulgaria to take all appropriate measures to prevent such violations. "Under UN Security Council resolution 787, Romania and Bulgaria have strong authority to ensure compliance with the embargo. I have instructed our mission to the United Nations to communicate our views to the UN Sanctions Committee and to request it to review these violations on an urgent basis," said the Minister.

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