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CANADA HOSTS CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Marcel Masse, today announced the convening of a Conference on the Role of the Military and Democratic Societies, February 2-5. The conference is sponsored jointly by Canada and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The meeting will bring together academic and military experts from the emerging democracies of Central and East Europe and the former U.S.S.R., as well as NATO countries. The conference is designed to foster a better practical understanding of civil-military relations in democratic societies.

"I am pleased the Canadian Forces will take an active role in this conference," said Mr. Masse. "Through our participation, the emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe will gain insight into how the military interacts with civilian authorities in Western society."

"This is a crucial time as countries of Central and Eastern Europe develop their democratic institutions," said Mrs. McDougall. "This Canada-NATO project reflects our clear commitment to assisting these states in establishing genuine and lasting democracies."