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## McDOUGALL LEADS CANADIAN DELEGATION TO INAUGURAL MEETING OF CSCE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced that she will lead the Canadian delegation to the inaugural meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in Berlin, June 19-20.

"This first meeting will lay the foundation for regular political dialogue on the challenges facing the new Europe," stated Mrs. McDougall. "It is significant that these historic consultations will take place in Berlin -- the first high-level international meeting to be held there since Germany unified and the Cold War ended."

During their deliberations, Foreign Ministers will review current developments in Europe and discuss other issues central to the CSCE process such as the consolidation of democracy, economic reform and human rights. They will also examine ways to develop the conflict prevention dimension of the CSCE and measures to increase transparency in the transfer of conventional arms.

The Council was created at the 1990 Paris Summit as the central forum for political consultation within the CSCE process. It is comprised of Foreign Ministers from the 34 participating states, which include Canada and the United States in addition to the U.S.S.R. and all other European nations except Albania.

The CSCE, established in Helsinki in 1975, provides for co-operation in the areas of military security, economic development and human rights.

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