



No. 122

May 26, 1993

## McDOUGALL VERY ENCOURAGED BY CAMBODIAN ELECTIONS

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today welcomed reports on the first four days of polling in the United Nations-supervised elections in Cambodia. Indications are that more than 85 percent of the Cambodian electorate have already voted in the national elections.

"The tremendous voter turnout in the first days of the vote is a testament to the spirit and courage of the Cambodian people who have demonstrated their desire for peace and democracy in the face of violence and intimidation," said Mrs. McDougall. "It is not only a victory for Cambodians, but also for the UN and the international community, which have worked with them to make this election possible."

The Minister also paid tribute to the courage and determination of the peacekeepers, both civilian and military, from around the world who have contributed to the election process through the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). More than 330 Canadians are serving with the UN operation. Of these, nearly 60 are Canadian electoral experts serving as UNTAC officials or as International Polling Station Officers, and nearly 40 others as UN volunteers in Cambodia. Mrs. McDougall met with many of the Canadians in Cambodia during her visit in mid-April, and two members of parliament are currently in Cambodia.

"The success of the Cambodian election, to date, is in part attributable to the contribution and dedication of Canadians to the establishment of peace and democracy in that country. Beginning with Elections Canada's participation in the drafting of the electoral program, to the efforts of Canadians on the ground today, we can be proud of the role Canada has played," added Mrs. McDougall.

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