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## CANADA ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ARMENIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with Armenia. Mrs McDougall and Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian signed a Joint Declaration on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Canada and the Republic of Armenia.

"Canada was proud to be among the first to recognize Armenia as an independent state last December. By establishing formal diplomatic relations, we hope to deepen the already strong ties we have with the people of Armenia," said Mrs. McDougall.

The Minister added that Canada will establish a diplomatic presence in Armenia's capital, Yerevan. Discussions will begin soon on the form of Armenia's representation in Canada and other issues.

The Declaration was signed in Prague, where both Ministers are attending a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), January 30-31, 1992.

- 30 -

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