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## CANADA ISSUES FIRST REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today announced the submission of Canada's first report to the United Nations Secretary-General on violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. The information in the report will be made available to the UN Commission of Experts, which is investigating war crimes in the region.

"The atrocities occurring in the former Yugoslavia must not be forgotten or tolerated," said Mrs. McDougall. "Canada is committed to helping the international community bring war criminals to justice."

Canada began collecting information on violations of humanitarian law in early November with the appointment of an Information Co-ordinator.

The first report contains information drawn from a wide variety of sources, including over 70 reports from non-governmental and regional organizations, governments, the United Nations and Canadian individuals. In addition, the document contains a legal analysis, in which Canada concludes that the situation in the former Yugoslavia is subject to the war crimes provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

On January 12, Mrs. McDougall expanded the process by inviting the Canadian public to provide substantiated information to the Information Co-ordinator on war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia. Canada's second report to the Secretary-General, to be submitted this spring, will include information gathered from recent public submissions. These confidential submissions are assessed and only substantiated and corroborated information is submitted to the UN.