



No. 18

January 20, 1992

MCDUGALL ANNOUNCES OPENING OF VILNIUS OFFICE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced the opening of the Office of the Canadian Embassy in Vilnius, Lithuania. With the opening of the new office, Canada now has a presence in all three Baltic States.

"Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia can count on Canada's continuing friendship as they resume their places in the international community," said Mrs. McDougall. "We are actively supporting their efforts to strengthen their democratic institutions and implement economic reforms."

The Minister noted that Canada has already backed up its pledges of support with concrete assistance, including:

- 19 projects approved or under way in Canada's technical assistance program for the Baltic States, which includes support under the Renaissance Eastern Europe program to Canadian companies wanting to establish a presence in the region;
- \$1 million in humanitarian aid to be delivered by the Canadian Red Cross in March; and
- negotiations under way on the Government of Canada's conditional offer of \$10 million Export Development Corporation lines of credit to each Baltic State.

The Vilnius office is a satellite of Canada's Embassy in Stockholm, which is accredited to Lithuania. Through the Vilnius office, Stockholm-based Embassy officials will provide trade and investment-promotion assistance, as well as limited visa and consular services.