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McDOUGALL TO ATTEND 22nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced today that she will lead the Canadian delegation to the 22nd General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), which will be held May 18-23 in Nassau, Bahamas.

"With the situations in Haiti and Peru still unresolved, democracy and human rights will again be Canada's top priorities at this year's General Assembly," said Mrs. McDougall.

The Minister will address the General Assembly during the first days of the proceedings. She will also hold talks with foreign ministers of several member states.

The OAS is the oldest regional organization in the world, and the General Assembly is the annual meeting of the 34 participating members, representing all the independent nations of the Western hemisphere except Cuba. Cuba is a member, but its current government's representation is suspended.

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