



No. 190

September 6, 1991

AMBASSADORS APPOINTED TO BALTIC STATES AND SWEDEN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced the appointments of the first Canadian ambassadors to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

"Last week I announced Canada's formal recognition of the independence of the three Baltic States," said Mrs. McDougall. "Today I am delighted to cement the ties of friendship between our countries through the appointment of Canadian ambassadors."

Canada is one of the first countries to open direct diplomatic relations with the Baltic States. At present, the three Baltic countries will be covered on a non-resident basis. The accreditation of ambassadors puts Canada's bilateral relations on a firm footing and opens up opportunities for the expansion of political and trade relations.

Mrs. McDougall announced that Mr. Michael Phillips has been appointed Ambassador to Sweden. In addition to his responsibilities in Sweden, Mr. Phillips has also been appointed Ambassador to Lithuania and Latvia.

The current Canadian Ambassador to Finland, Mrs. Mary Vandenhoff, has now also been accredited to Estonia.

Biographies of both ambassadors are attached.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874