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CANADA ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH KYRGYZSTAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with Kyrgyzstan. Mrs. McDougall and Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Roza Otunbayeva signed a Joint Declaration on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Canada and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, this afternoon in Ottawa.

Foreign Minister Otunbayeva is accompanying Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev on a working visit to Canada. President Akayev held discussions with Prime Minister Mulroney earlier today.

"Kyrgyzstan has shown itself to be a democratic and moderate voice of stability in this new post-U.S.S.R. era," said Mrs. McDougall. "I look forward to the development of closer economic, social and diplomatic ties with this newly independent country."

The Minister noted that Canada's Ambassador in Moscow will have concurrent accreditation to Kyrgyzstan.

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