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McDOUGALL WELCOMES FORMAL END TO CIVIL WAR IN EL SALVADOR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today welcomed the final demobilization of combatants of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in El Salvador, which formally ends 12 years of civil war in that country. The Minister said that Canada will be represented at official peace celebrations in San Salvador today by her Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Benno Friesen, the Member for Surrey-White Rocks.

"This is not only the formal end of the armed conflict in El Salvador but also a major step toward national reconciliation and a more peaceful and prosperous future," stated Mrs. McDougall.

The Minister said that the peace process in El Salvador is a good example of how the United Nations, supported by members of the international community, can be effective in helping to settle complex disputes.

Mrs. McDougall said that Canada made an important contribution to the peace process in El Salvador. It participates in the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador, which has monitored the disarmament and demobilization of combatants. Canada has also provided \$1.6 million for projects to support democratic institutions and the integration of former combatants into civil society.

- 30 -

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