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McDOUGALL CALLS FOR AN END TO CONFLICT IN BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today condemned the escalation of violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for an end to the fighting.

"A new tragedy is unfolding in former Yugoslavia with its heavy toll in human lives: state-directed and individual violence is being used to destabilize and possibly carve up the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina," said the Minister.

"This must stop immediately. The Serbian-led Yugoslav army as well as paramilitary groups from Serbia and Croatia must be brought under control."

Mrs. McDougall indicated that the Canadian delegation at the follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), in session in Helsinki on April 15, called in strong terms for Yugoslavia and Croatia to refrain from interference in the affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Discussions are still taking place on a CSCE declaration condemning the violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Following Canadian recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina on April 8, 1992, Canada's representatives in Belgrade and Zagreb have called on Yugoslav and Croatian authorities to use all their influence to bring an end to the tragic violence in that republic.

"Canada strongly supports the efforts of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy, Cyrus Vance, and the Chairman of the European Community (EC) Conference on Yugoslavia, Lord Carrington, to promote an effective ceasefire and a genuine peace process. The commendable mediation efforts of the EC Presidency in Bosnia-Herzegovina must be allowed to succeed," concluded Mrs. McDougall.

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