

Secretary of
State for
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McDOUGALL TO VISIT SPAIN, HOLD TALKS IN THE HAGUE AND ATTEND SUMMITS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, will visit Spain July 1 and 2 to participate in Canada Day celebrations at Expo '92 in Seville, followed by an official bilateral visit to Madrid. There she will meet with King Juan Carlos, President of the Government Felipe González and new Foreign Minister Javier Solana to discuss Canada-Spain bilateral issues, including overfishing, future relations between Canada and the European Community, and European security.

"1992 is an important year for Spain, for Europe and for Canada and our ties with the European continent continue to grow," said Mrs. McDougall. "Canada's very popular pavilion in Expo '92, and our participation in the Olympics and in Madrid's special cultural activities will serve to strengthen our bilateral ties with Spain, and provide Canada with a unique access to Europe now and in the years to come," added the Minister.

Spain is fast becoming one of Canada's major trading partners. The value of Canada's two-way trade with Spain reached almost \$1 billion in 1991, nearly twice as much as it was only six years ago.

After Madrid, Mrs. McDougall will travel to The Hague where she will meet her colleague, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek. The two ministers will discuss bilateral issues of mutual interest and broader European issues such as Yugoslavia, peacekeeping and the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The Netherlands is Canada's third largest European trading partner.

Following her talks in The Hague, Mrs. McDougall will attend the Economic Summit in Munich and the Summit of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in Helsinki.

An itinerary and a backgrounder are attached.

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