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SECRETARY-GENERAL OUR FULL SUPPORT - A PLEDGE THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT ON THIS OCCASION. WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT MRS. MONGELLA WILL BE VISITING CANADA LATER THIS MONTH TO DISCUSS CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS.

IN CANADA, MOMENTUM IS BUILDING AS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ADVANCE IN THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR THE BEIJING MEETING. CURRENTLY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING INPUT FROM WOMEN'S GROUPS AND OTHERS WITHIN THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION. IN CANADA, WE VIEW THE INVOLVEMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ESSENTIAL TO BOTH CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS AND THE CONFERENCE ITSELF. THEREFORE, WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE WORLD CONFERENCE.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

WHILE ON THE TOPIC OF PARTICIPATION, I WOULD LIKE TO BRIEFLY TOUCH UPON THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT. FIRST, I APPLAUD THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STATED INTENT TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF WOMEN IN PROFESSIONAL AND SENIOR LEVELS IN THE SECRETARIAT. I TRUST THAT THE MANY AGENCIES WHICH COMPOSE THE EXTENDED UNITED NATIONS FAMILY WILL FOLLOW THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PRAISEWORTHY EXAMPLE.

AS CANADA'S CONCERNS REGARDING THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE SECRETARIAT ALREADY HAVE BEEN OUTLINED IN A JOINT STATEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, AND WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A JOINT RESOLUTION ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE SECRETARIAT, I WOULD ONLY ADD HERE OUR HOPE FOR THE FULL SUPPORT OF ALL MEMBER STATES FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S EFFORTS TO EFFECT A SPEEDY AND EQUITABLE ADJUSTMENT OF THE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN HOLDING SENIOR POSITIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM.