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## CANADA TO ATTEND MIDDLE EAST MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced today that she will lead the Canadian delegation to the multilateral round of the Middle East peace negotiations, scheduled to take place in Moscow on January 28 and 29. The Minister explained that these negotiations will deal with a wide variety of regional questions whose solutions require concerted international efforts.

"Canada hopes that the multilateral talks will help the parties in the region realize the considerable benefits to be gained from future co-operation. We believe that this, in turn, can have a beneficial effect on the negotiations between the parties directly involved. Canada intends to make a constructive contribution to the process," Mrs. McDougall said.

The Minister said that Canada's current Ambassador to Israel, Mr. Michael Bell, is being reassigned to Ottawa to join her team of advisors on the Middle East and will be a senior member of the Canadian delegation to the multilateral conference.

"Mr. Bell's vast knowledge and experience in the region will be invaluable in the preparation of Canada's contribution to the multilateral round of the peace process," the Minister said.

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