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CANADA TO SIGN
THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION
OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mark MacGuigan, and the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Lloyd Axworthy, announced today that Canada will sign the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women at a ceremony in Copenhagen, Denmark on Thursday, July 17. The ceremony is being held in connection with the World Conference on the U.N. Mid-Decade for Women taking place there July 14 to 30. Signing for Canada will be Canada's Ambassador to Denmark, Marion Macpherson.

The Convention was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its last session in December 1979 and is the result of five years of negotiations among countries from all parts of the world. Canada fully supported the process and played a significant part in the negotiations.

The decision by Canada to sign the Convention during the Copenhagen Conference, supported by the provinces, provides an opportune occasion to highlight the importance Canada attaches to the Convention as a landmark in the process of recognizing the full equality of rights and responsibilities of women and men worldwide.