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CANADA OPENS DIPLOMATIC OFFICE IN VIETNAM

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced today that Canada will open a diplomatic office in Hanoi, Vietnam on July 1, 1991.

"By establishing a diplomatic presence in Vietnam, Canada will be in a better position to encourage ongoing reforms, monitor the human rights situation and implement our new aid program," stated Mrs. McDougall. "It allows Canada to be an even more active player in the Cambodian peace process," added the Minister.

The new Hanoi office will be staffed at the level of Chargé d'Affaires and will report directly to the Canadian Ambassador in Bangkok.

Although bilateral trade is currently limited, there is growing interest in Vietnam by Canadian business as a result of the ongoing economic reforms, in particular the Law on Foreign Investment. Among Western countries, Canada is now the fifth largest investor in Vietnam with over \$100 million in investments.

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