



No. 50

March 9, 1992

McDOUGALL COMMEMORATES COMMONWEALTH DAY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, issued the following statement to mark Commonwealth Day:

"This is a day to remind ourselves of the importance of the Commonwealth to Canada, of what we have been able to accomplish through that organization, and of the challenges that lie ahead.

"For Canada, the Commonwealth is far more than a window on the world; it is an important instrument for advancing good government, democracy and human rights for the benefit of millions of people around the world.

"Over the past year, we have seen progress on major issues such as South Africa, where the gains have been real but remain fragile. Canada will continue to be vigilant and to do everything it can to encourage and support efforts to bring about a just and lasting solution to problems in that part of the world.

"As we prepare to host the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, British Columbia and the Commonwealth Arts Festival which will be held in conjunction with the Games, we rededicate ourselves to making the Commonwealth more democratic and peaceful than ever -- a Commonwealth in which human rights will not only be respected, but cherished."

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874