



news release

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CANADA TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM CYPRUS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Marcel Masse, announced today that Canada has decided to withdraw its peacekeeping contingent from the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in mid-1993. Canada has been serving in UNFICYP since 1964 and currently has 575 troops involved. Until 1992, with Canada's contribution to the former republics of Yugoslavia, Canada's largest peacekeeping force was in Cyprus.

"Peacekeeping must never be considered as an end in itself or as a substitute for political leadership, honourable compromise and negotiation," said Mrs. McDougall. "Whether or not Canadian troops remain in Cyprus, it is the Greek and Turkish Cypriots who bear the ultimate responsibility for resolving the dispute."

"Canadian peacekeepers have made a long and successful contribution to keeping peace in Cyprus for 28 years; it is time for other nations to step in and do their part," said Mr. Masse. "Our soldiers will continue to use their expertise to advance the cause of peace elsewhere around the world."

Over the years, the government has carefully reviewed the situation in Cyprus and encouraged a permanent resolution to the conflict. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has held numerous consultations on the Cyprus issue with the UN Secretary-General, the main parties to the conflict and the countries contributing troops to UNFICYP, including Britain, Denmark and Austria. Mrs. McDougall also visited the region in spring 1992 and met with key leaders to discuss prospects for resolving the conflict.