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CANADA STRENGTHENS CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH MEXICO

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of Communications, the Honourable Perrin Beatty, today announced the signature of two cultural agreements with Mexico. Mrs. McDougall signed the agreements in Mexico City, where she is leading the Canadian delegation to the Eighth Canada-Mexico Ministerial Joint Commission.

The agreements are the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico on Cultural Relations, to be administered under the 1976 Cultural Agreement, and the Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico regarding Co-operation in the Fields of Museum and Archaeology, a product of sustained discussions between the two countries.

"The Memorandum of Understanding should not only help to promote closer co-operation in culture and education between the two countries, but should also encourage more active private sector participation in the cultural policies of the two countries," said Mrs. McDougall.

Provisions to achieve this goal, including examining the possibility of creating a Canada-Mexico cultural cooperation fund, have been agreed on by the two parties. The main purpose of this fund, managed jointly by the international cultural relations bureaus of the two countries, would be to help implement priorities established by the public, parapublic and private sectors during the Canada-Mexico Symposium on Cultural Relations in October 1991.