



No. 282

December 12, 1991

McDOUGALL ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC SANCTIONS LEGISLATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced the tabling of a Bill that would permit the Government to impose a broad range of economic sanctions in response to a serious threat to international peace or security.

"The Act is necessary to improve the Government's ability to contribute quickly and effectively to peaceful solutions to international crises," stated Mrs. McDougall.

The Act will permit the Government to prohibit or restrict the import and export of goods and services, financial and commercial transactions and the operation of air and sea links. It will also permit the freezing of foreign-held assets in Canada. Although powers do exist for some measures, for instance to control trade in goods under the Import and Export Permits Act, the new Act will fill gaps in the Government's current legislative authority and simplify the process of imposing sanctions.

Sanctions could be applied under the Act where a "grave breach of international peace and security has occurred that has resulted or is likely to result in a serious international crisis" or to implement "a decision, resolution or recommendation of an international organization or association of states of which Canada is a member, calling for the application of sanctions."

The legislation provides for mandatory parliamentary review of any order or regulation passed under the Act.

"This legislation will be a valuable contribution to Canada's traditional policy of working multilaterally to promote international peace and stability," said Mrs. McDougall.

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