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McDOUGALL URGES AFGHANS TO CO-OPERATE FOR PEACE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today called on all parties to pursue peacefully the transition of power in Afghanistan and to avoid factional conflict.

"I welcome the transfer of power to the Afghan Interim Council and urge all Afghans to unite so that the destruction of lives and property can end and peaceful reconstruction can begin," said Mrs. McDougall.

The Minister indicated that Canada is considering humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan. Since 1982, Canada has provided \$215 million in aid to Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

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