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McDOUGALL TO VISIT MEXICO AND ATTEND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall will visit Mexico June 4 and 5, before leading the Canadian delegation to the 23rd General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), which opens June 6 in Managua, Nicaragua.

In Mexico, Mrs. McDougall will meet with President Carlos Salinas and with Foreign Minister Fernando Solana to discuss a variety of bilateral issues, as well as human rights and progress on the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Among Canada's priorities at the OAS meeting in Managua will be the situations in Haiti and Guatemala, and ways the OAS can encourage a return to democracy in those countries.

There will also be a special General Assembly to amend the OAS Charter to streamline procedures and strengthen technical assistance in support of the social, economic and cultural development activities of the Organization.

Canada will work throughout the General Assembly in support of OAS human rights activities, and will address a number of social and economic issues in the context of the General Assembly's theme, "The OAS: Democracy, the Processes of Reconciliation and Development."

The OAS is the oldest regional organization in the world. Its members represent all the independent nations of the Western Hemisphere except Cuba. Cuba is a member, but its current government's representation is suspended. Canada joined the OAS in 1990.

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