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BEATTY APPLAUDS WITHDRAWAL OF RUSSIAN TROOPS FROM LITHUANIA

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty today welcomed Russia's decision to resume the withdrawal of its troops from Lithuanian territory. Mr. Beatty also called on Russia to begin its troop withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia as quickly as possible.

"Canada has strongly supported the call by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) for the early, orderly and complete withdrawal of foreign troops from the territories of the Baltic States," said Mr. Beatty. "We are therefore pleased that Russia and Lithuania have been able to overcome their differences, and that all Russian troops will soon be out of Lithuania."

Lithuania and Russia had agreed to the complete withdrawal of Russian troops by August 31. Negotiations on a written agreement broke down, however, over differences primarily concerning compensation for damages caused by Russian troops. On August 22, Russia halted its withdrawal from Lithuanian territory.

Mr. Beatty noted that the Canadian Embassy in Moscow made a démarche to the Russian Foreign Ministry last week, urging a resumption of the withdrawal from Lithuania and the speedy conclusion of negotiations with Estonia and Latvia.

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