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CANADA ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH UKRAINE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with Ukraine. The Minister was in Kiev to sign the Joint Declaration on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between Canada and Ukraine, with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko.

"Canada is linked to Ukraine through the bonds of family, friendship and history," said Mrs. McDougall. "The declaration signed today is a milestone, it is far from a beginning. This document formalizes a dynamic and diverse relationship which, I'm sure, will grow stronger in the coming years."

Mrs. McDougall announced that the status of Canada's Consulate General in Kiev has been raised to that of a Canadian Embassy. Consul General Nestor Gayowsky takes on the new title of Chargé d'affaires.

While in Kiev, the Minister briefed President Leonid Kravchuk on the results of last week's Washington Co-ordinating Conference on aid to countries of the former U.S.S.R. She also discussed economic reform, security and other issues with the Ukrainian President.

Mrs. McDougall used the opportunity of her visit to meet the arrival, in Kiev, of the first shipment in Canada's \$6-million humanitarian airlift to the countries of the former Soviet Union and the Baltic States. In addition, she toured Children's Hospital No. 1, which is benefitting from Canadian funding and humanitarian supplies.

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