



No. 44

February 25, 1993

## CANADA WELCOMES UNCHR'S RESOLUTION ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today welcomed the adoption by consensus by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) of a resolution on the rape and abuse of women in the former Yugoslavia. This is the first time that a resolution dealing specifically with violence against women has been adopted by the Commission.

"In adopting this resolution by consensus, the 53 members of the Commission have sent a clear signal of their determination to end these brutal, degrading attacks against women and to let it be known that such acts are war crimes," said Mrs. McDougall.

The resolution, which was co-sponsored by Canada, requires that a team of experts, under the auspices of the special rapporteur for the former Yugoslavia, conduct a specific investigation into the sexual violence inflicted on women in the region. This follows an intervention by the Canadian delegation before the Commission on February 9, 1993, calling for such an investigation.

"I have instructed the Canadian delegation at the Commission on Human Rights to continue its discussions with the appropriate United Nations authorities in order to determine how Canada might best support the work of the team," added the Minister.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
External Affairs and International Trade Canada  
(613) 995-1874