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CANADA ESTABLISHES ADVISORY GROUP ON CANADA-JAPAN RELATIONS

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today announced the establishment of an advisory group on the implementation of the final report of the Canada-Japan Forum 2000. The report, presented to the Canadian and Japanese prime ministers in December 1992, contains 19 recommendations to improve Canada-Japan relations.

The Forum, a group of eminent persons co-chaired by former Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed and Yoshio Okawara, recommends a Canada-Japan partnership that:

- improves investment and trade opportunities;
- promotes mutual understanding through increased people-to-people contacts;
- enhances co-operation on global security questions; and
- increases collaboration on pressing world problems, such as the environment, trade, human rights and refugees.

"The Forum report is an important milestone in Canada-Japan relations, and we are committed to translating its recommendations into action," Mrs. McDougall said.

Canada and Japan have agreed to a joint environmental project on the North Pacific. In addition, the two countries have launched talks on increasing people-to-people contacts and on political co-operation in areas, such as peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

In the area of trade and investment, the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, Michael Wilson, last month launched the Japan Action Plan. The plan is designed to help Canadian firms develop opportunities and expand their businesses in Japan.