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CANADA ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

PARIS, FRANCE – Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Canada is establishing diplomatic relations with Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The ground for this welcome and necessary step forward in relations between our countries has been prepared by the recent signing of an agreement that at last lays the foundation for real peace in Bosnia," said Mr. Ouellet.

"Through its contribution to UNPROFOR, humanitarian and refugee assistance and the activities of non-governmental organizations, Canada has been closely engaged in international efforts to end the war and to assist those it has affected. We want to be full partners with Bosnia-Herzegovina in what we trust will be a new era of democracy, reconstruction and respect for human rights for the region," he added.

Early in 1996, Canada will establish a small embassy in Sarajevo. The embassy's main role will be to support the peace process, to ensure that the impact of Canadian assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina is maximized and to assist Canadians when necessary. Canada recognized Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1992.

- 30 -

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