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McDOUGALL EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT SERBIAN ELECTIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today issued the following statement on the former Yugoslavia.

The elections of December 20, 1992 for the Presidency of Serbia and for the federal parliament and republican assemblies in Serbia and Montenegro provided an opportunity for change. Regrettably, the conditions in which these elections were held were seriously flawed. Reports from the team of international observers, which included four Canadians, found numerous and grave irregularities during the campaign and during the voting.

There is considerable doubt whether the outcome is a free expression of the will of the electorate. There is no indication that the destructive policies that have led to much of the present crisis will change.

Canada continues to believe strongly that attempts to stop the violence and suffering, and to ensure it does not spread further, require the full engagement of the United Nations. Action by the Security Council is the clearest sign of the world's commitment to act effectively to stop the tragedy in Bosnia and Hercegovina, and prevent its spread. The election results have underlined this.

Canada has welcomed the Council's recent decision to tighten economic sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro. We are applying these new measures strictly. We are exploring with our allies what additional measures should be taken.

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