



No. 172

August 31, 1992

## CANADIANS PARTICIPATE IN CSCE MISSION TO DETENTION CAMPS IN BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, has announced that two Canadians are participating in a Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) mission to investigate human rights abuses in detention camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr. Alan Elliott, a medical officer with Health and Welfare Canada, and Tom Boehm, a senior official with External Affairs and International Trade Canada, are in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of an international team of specialists.

"We have all been horrified by what we have learned about these camps," said Mrs. McDougall. "In London, the international community demanded immediate access. The presence of a CSCE team will ensure that we get first-hand, impartial information on the treatment of the people detained."

The mission, under the auspices of the CSCE, is led by Sir John Thompson, former U.K. Permanent Representative to the United Nations. The United States, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey have also provided experts.

"Canada strongly supports all international efforts to end the suffering. Basic human rights and dignity must be respected and these camps must be closed," stated Mrs. McDougall.

The mission will visit detention camps over the next week. Its report will be discussed at the next meeting of the CSCE's Committee of Senior Officials on September 18.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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