CANADA TO CONTRIBUTE TO UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN YUGOSLAVIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Marcel Masse, today announced that Canada has agreed to provide one of the largest contributions to the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Yugoslavia and Croatia.

Canada will commit up to 1,200 personnel to UNPROFOR, the United Nations Protection Force, for a period of one year. Canada will provide an infantry battalion, a combat engineer squadron, military observers and military police. A further UN request for civilian police monitors is under consideration.

"Too many people have died and too many people have been left homeless in Yugoslavia," said Mrs. McDougall. "Canada has supported all international efforts to end the bloodshed and it was among the first to call for a United Nations peacekeeping mission. Our commitment today underscores our determination to find a peaceful and lasting solution to this conflict."

"Canada's contribution may well be the largest of all 31 countries," said Mr. Masse. "This clearly shows that the international community recognizes our expertise in such operations. Peacekeeping is the best means of finding a solution to this conflict -- a lasting settlement that is acceptable to all parties."

On Friday, the United Nations Security Council approved plans for the more than 13,000-person, 31-country mission, the largest United Nations peacekeeping operation since the Congo in 1960.

A team of 12 Canadian Forces observers has been deployed
with the European Community's Monitoring Mission in
Yugoslavia since September. In addition, five Canadian
military observers are assigned to the United Nations
Liaison Mission in Yugoslavia.

- 30 -

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