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PAFSO AWARD TO ALEXANDRA BEZEREDI
FOR WORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Maurice Strong, presented the 1991 Foreign Service Officer Award to Alexandra Bezeredi, Second Secretary in the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, in Ottawa on June 13.

The Canadian Foreign Service Officer Award was instituted in 1990 by the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers (PAFSO) to acknowledge exceptional achievement by career foreign service officers. The winner of the Award receives a cash prize of \$1000 and all Award, Special Commendation and Citation winners receive certificates.

Ms. Bezeredi, who is the first External Affairs and International Trade Canada officer responsible for environmental issues at the Canadian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, won the Award for her extensive and important contributions to global environment issues. Such contributions include her exhaustive efforts to achieve a balanced and workable mandate for the UN Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992.

A Special Commendation and two Citations were also presented this year. The Special Commendation was given to William R. Bowden, former Chargé d'Affaires in Kuwait, who provided leadership to the Canadian community and was instrumental in organizing the warden system to maintain contact with Canadian nationals during the Iraqi occupation. One Citation was presented to Guillermo Rishchynski for his efforts to expand the presence of Canadian exporters in Mexico and Latin America; the other Citation was presented to Claude Baillargeon for his sensitive handling of the diplomatic and political complexities of Francophone affairs.

Judges for this year's PAFSO awards were the Honourable Gerard Pelletier, Hedevig Ring, Blair Seaborn and Frank Petrie. The awards were presented at the first annual PAFSO dinner.

The Public Service of Canada also recently honoured eight departmental employees. Five employees from the Canadian Embassy in Kuwait and three employees from the Canadian Embassy in Iraq were presented with Awards of Excellence at a special ceremony in Ottawa on May 22.

The recipients -- Janice E. Attree-Smith, William R. Bowden, Dale E. Carl, Brian K. Friebe, Louise Friebe, Jean J. Gauthier, Ron N. Waugh and Sharon Waugh -- received the awards for their dedication and service to Canada and Canadians throughout August, September and October 1990 during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Despite considerable uncertainty over their personal safety, these employees continued to provide consular services to Canadians in the area.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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