



No. 172

August 7, 1991

CANADA, U.K. AND U.S. COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATLANTIC CHARTER

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced that Canada, Great Britain and the United States will participate in activities in Newfoundland to mark the 50th anniversary of the Atlantic Charter.

The Honourable John C. Crosbie, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, will represent Canada at commemorative ceremonies which will take place in Argentia, Newfoundland, on Sunday, August 11, 1991. The British High Commissioner, Brian Fall, and the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, Edward Ney, will represent their respective countries.

In August 1941, at the height of World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt travelled by warship in utmost secrecy to meet in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, where they concluded an agreement on wartime co-operation between Great Britain and the U.S. This accord, which became known as the Atlantic Charter, enunciated basic principles which the Allies hoped would govern the post-war world.

"The meeting of these two great men in Newfoundland has been called one of the most dramatic encounters of the war," said Mrs. McDougall. "The principles of non-aggression, sovereignty and prosperity enunciated in the Atlantic Charter went on to form an integral part of important documents such as the United Nations Charter."

The commemorative activities will include a church service on board ship, a luncheon hosted by the Canadian government and a conference, organized by Memorial University in collaboration with the Roosevelt Institute of New York City, to be held in St. John's, August 12-13.

The Canadian warship, the HMCS *Margaree*, and the American warship, the USS *Valdez*, will be on hand in Argentia and St. John's to evoke the context of the historic meeting.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874