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CANADA CONDEMNS ATTACK ON DUBROVNIK

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, denounced today the attack by the Yugoslav federal army on the City of Dubrovnik.

"The attack on Dubrovnik by the Yugoslav federal army is an intolerable and wanton use of violence against innocent civilians and a city of immense historical value, not only to Yugoslavia, but to the whole world," said Mrs. McDougall. "Canada's Delegation to today's United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) meeting in Paris condemned in the strongest terms the senseless targeting of this world heritage site. It is time for all parties involved to respect the cease-fires they have signed and to negotiate a settlement to this tragic conflict."

The Minister released notes used by the Canadian Delegation at an extraordinary session of the 26th General Conference of UNESCO in Paris.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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

NOTES FOR AN INTERVENTION BY
THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO
THE 26TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO
CONCERNING PROTECTION OF THE HERITAGE OF
THE CITY OF DUBROVNIK

The Canadian Delegation wishes to draw the Commission's attention to what it feels is a matter of extreme importance. The Government of Canada is very concerned about reports indicating that the fighting in Yugoslavia threatens to permanently damage the historic district of the City of Dubrovnik.

The Canadian Delegation points out that in addition to being an altogether indefensible act, the destruction of the historic district of the City of Dubrovnik violates the principles of the Convention on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage in the Event of an Armed Conflict (Convention of The Hague, 1954), and of the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972).

Conversely, the Canadian Delegation welcomes and fully supports the joint declaration of the United Nations Secretary-General and the UNESCO Director-General and their plea to stop the fighting in order to avoid a deterioration of the situation and to prevent additional destruction from occurring.

Canada condemns this senseless destruction and invites the UNESCO General Conference and all countries to join with it in insisting on the cessation of these deplorable acts that are causing the loss of human lives, the displacement of thousands of citizens and the destruction of cultural wealth of inestimable value.