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McDOUGALL TO ATTEND REGIONAL SECURITY MEETINGS IN EUROPE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall will be in Europe, December 14-18, for a series of regional security meetings. Discussions at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the North Atlantic Co-operation Council (NACC) and the London Conference on the Former Yugoslavia will focus on the conflicts and political and security issues facing Europe.

On December 14 and 15, Mrs. McDougall will be in Stockholm to attend the Council meeting of the CSCE. Ministers will review CSCE missions to trouble spots such as Kosovo, Georgia and Nagorno-Karabakh and sanctions-monitoring missions in the countries neighbouring the former Yugoslavia. They will also adopt measures to strengthen the ability of the CSCE to deal with ethnic conflicts and violations of human rights in Europe.

On December 16, Mrs. McDougall will be in Geneva for a meeting of the Steering Committee of the London Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. Foreign ministers will take stock of events since the Plenary Session of the Conference in August and look at ways to increase international pressure on the parties to bring the conflict to an end.

While in Geneva, the Minister will also meet with Mrs. Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, concerning the situation facing the millions of displaced people in the Balkans.

On December 17, Mrs. McDougall will attend the North Atlantic Council (NAC) meeting in Brussels. Key issues for discussion are NATO's role in peacekeeping and its future relations with the Western European Union. The 16 NATO ministers will also review the support the Alliance is providing to UN peacekeeping in the former Yugoslavia. The December 18 meeting of the NACC will consider proposals for expanding political and security co-operation between NATO allies and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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