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ANGOLA: CANADA IMPOSES SANCTIONS AGAINST UNITA

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty today announced that Canada is imposing sanctions against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 864, adopted on September 15, 1993.

"Canada shares the international community's determination to address the deteriorating political and humanitarian situation in Angola," said Mr. Beatty. "We call on UNITA to comply immediately with the demands of the Security Council, refrain from military action and return to negotiations."

The sanctions are intended to limit UNITA's ability to pursue its war effort by prohibiting the sale or supply to UNITA of arms and related military assistance as well as petroleum and petroleum products. Should UNITA fail to respond to this action, the Security Council is ready to consider the imposition of further measures.

In May 1991, the Government of Angola and UNITA signed the Bicesse Peace Accord, ending 16 years of civil war. In accordance with the terms of the agreement, elections were held in September 1992 under UN supervision. Although the elections were declared generally free and fair, UNITA rejected the results and returned Angola to a state of civil war. Fighting escalated in the early months of 1993, and negotiations in Addis Ababa in February and Abidjan in April failed to resolve the political impasse. The UN estimates that two million people need immediate assistance, but many cannot be reached due to the fighting and repeated attacks on relief operations.

Mr. Beatty stressed Canada's deep concern about the humanitarian tragedy in Angola. He reaffirmed Canada's

ongoing support for UN efforts to restore peace and democracy in that country and that sanctions would not affect Canadian relief efforts there.

- 30 -

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