

News Release

Communiqué

Secretary of
State for
External Affairs



Secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires
extérieures

No. 225

December 4, 1992

CANADIAN NOMINATED TO SENIOR UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT POST

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, said today that she was very pleased that a Canadian, Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, had been nominated by the UN Secretary-General to be the new Executive Director of the UN Environment Program (UNEP). Mrs. McDougall said that the General Assembly must endorse the Secretary-General's decision.

The UNEP Executive Director will have a crucial role to play in implementing the results of the Earth Summit held in Rio in June 1992. The appointment is part of a broader effort by the Secretary-General to bring in creative and energetic individuals to a revitalized United Nations.

Ms. Dowdeswell is an Assistant Deputy Minister at Environment Canada and head of Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service, where she has developed innovative programs that are widely recognized for their quality and scope. She is also Canada's Representative to the World Meteorological Organization, where she has twice been elected to the Executive Council. She was instrumental in the negotiation of the recently concluded Framework Convention on Climate Change.

"The Secretary-General's decision is gratifying, not only because of Ms. Dowdeswell's outstanding qualities and experience, but also because it recognizes Canada's efforts and commitment to a better environment. I am also pleased

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Canada

that the Secretary-General has chosen a Canadian woman to be in charge of UNEP, which is, without a doubt, one of the UN's most important programs," said Mrs. McDougall.

Once the nomination is confirmed by the General Assembly, Ms. Dowdeswell will succeed Dr. Mostafa Tolba of Egypt early in the new year. Dr. Tolba has held the position since 1976, when he replaced a Canadian, Mr. Maurice Strong, who had been appointed in 1972 as the first UNEP Executive Director.

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