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CANADA SIGNS CAMBODIA PEACE AGREEMENTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today signed on behalf of Canada the agreements for a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict at the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC).

"Canada welcomes and fully supports the comprehensive settlement of this difficult and tragic 21-year conflict," stated Mrs. McDougall. "We have been pleased to play an active role in the peace process through the framework of the Paris Conference and to have participated in a variety of United Nations and other initiatives in support of the process," the Minister said. Canada co-chaired the First Committee of the PICC on the peacekeeping arrangements and has fully supported the involvement of the United Nations in a comprehensive settlement.

The Minister said that Canada intends to continue to be actively involved in the peace process. "We plan to participate in both the military and civilian components of the peacekeeping operation to be undertaken by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)," Mrs. McDougall said.

Canada recently accepted requests to provide military officers to the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia and officials to the United Nations electoral appraisal mission, including the mission leader from Elections Canada and the head of Elections Ontario. These missions will begin preparations for UNTAC, which, as part of its peacekeeping role, will direct the administration of key aspects of the government in Cambodia to ensure that free and fair elections are held in a neutral political environment.

Mrs. McDougall also said that Canada will name a representative to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia as soon as it is established in Phnom Penh. "This will provide us with a means to represent Canadian interests in the country and to maintain relations until a new Cambodian government is installed on the basis of democratic elections under international supervision," the Minister said. The Canadian Ambassador in Bangkok, Mr. Arthur C. Perron, will be Canada's representative.

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