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McDOUGALL ATTENDS 22nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IN CHILE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, announced today that Canada will participate in the 22nd General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), in Santiago, Chile. The meeting will take place June 3-8, 1991.

"Canada places great importance on our relations with our OAS partners. Membership in the OAS is a key element of the Canadian Strategy for Latin America. We come to this Assembly strongly committed to working together on issues of common concern," said Mrs. McDougall.

The Minister will give a major address to the General Assembly during its opening sessions on June 3-4, and will hold discussions with a number of her OAS counterparts.

Major issues for discussion at this year's General Assembly include the consolidation of democracy, human rights, the environment, and the reform and strengthening of the OAS.

Canada will pursue the rapid implementation of the full program of the Unit for Promotion of Democracy, which resulted from a Canadian initiative of last year. A former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, the Honourable Bertha Wilson, will stand as a candidate at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights elections, which will be held during the General Assembly. A Canadian proposal for co-operation on arms control will also be discussed.

Canada

The General Assembly is the annual meeting of the 34 participating OAS member states. This will be the second year that Canada attends as a full member, having assumed full membership on January 8, 1990. Prior to that time, Canada enjoyed Permanent Observer status with the Organization.

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