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McDOUGALL CONDEMNS VIOLENCE IN CROATIA AND CALLS FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF YUGOSLAV CRISIS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today made the following statement about the tragic developments in Yugoslavia:

"Canada unequivocally condemns the acts of terror and violence committed in Croatia in recent weeks. We call upon all parties to the fighting to bring an end to this bloodshed, and urge the Yugoslav army to stop its use of excessive force. The only alternative to an immediate and genuine ceasefire would be a civil war. We believe there is still time to avoid that if all parties put an end to this misguided use of force to achieve political goals.

Canada fully endorses the efforts of the European Community (EC) to help resolve this crisis. We particularly support the offer by the Community to hold an international conference on Yugoslavia as well as to establish an arbitration procedure. This appears to us to offer the real possibility of achieving a peaceful and negotiated settlement of this crisis and we urge all Yugoslav parties to accept this proposal.

As a concrete contribution, I have instructed our Ambassador in Belgrade to express these views to all parties involved, including the governments of Serbia and Croatia, federal

authorities, and the leadership of the Yugoslav National Army. Ambassador Bissett will take the occasion to renew Canada's resolve to see a definitive and internationally supervised ceasefire and to get real negotiations under way on the future relationship among Yugoslav republics. Canada has offered to participate in the EC ceasefire monitoring team mandated by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and we call on those still opposed to its deployment in Croatia to accept this offer."

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