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McDOUGALL'S TRIP TO FIVE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOCUSSES ON PEACEKEEPING AND CANADA-EUROPE LINKS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced that she will travel to Germany, Croatia, Turkey, Cyprus and Greece, from May 28 to June 3. Discussions will centre on Canada's commitment to peacekeeping, the United Nations and European security issues.

On May 28, Mrs. McDougall will meet the new German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, to discuss the upcoming meeting of the G-7 in Munich, the situation in the former Yugoslavia and European security matters. The Ministers will be in Aachen, to attend the Charlemagne Award presentation to the President of the Commission of the European Communities, Jacques Delors, as the leading European of the Year. This is the first time Canada has been invited to attend the prestigious award ceremony.

On May 29, Mrs. McDougall will be in Croatia to meet with Canadian peacekeepers stationed with the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and with the European Community (EC) Monitoring Mission. With a contribution of about 1200 Canadian troops, Canada has one of the largest contingents in UNPROFOR. In addition, 30 RCMP civilian monitors are in the process of being deployed with the UN force. Mrs. McDougall participated in their May 20 departure ceremony in Ottawa.

On May 31, Mrs. McDougall will be in Ankara, Turkey, where she will meet with Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin. Discussions will include European security issues, recent developments in Central Asia and the prospects for a political settlement in Cyprus.

From Ankara, the Minister travels to Cyprus where she will visit Canadians stationed with the UN Force (UNFICYP). On June 1, she will hold discussions with United Nations Special Representative Oscar Camilion, Cypriot President George Vassiliou and Foreign Minister George Iacovou.

Discussions about the situation in Cyprus continue in Athens on June 2. Mrs. McDougall will meet with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Constantine Mitsotakis, as well as Junior Minister for Foreign Affairs Virginia Tsouderou.

"I look forward to the opportunity to get first-hand knowledge of the realities facing peacekeeping forces in Cyprus and Croatia," said Mrs. McDougall. "My discussions with key players will allow for a realistic assessment of the prospects for resolving the conflicts afflicting the region."

From Athens, Mrs. McDougall travels to Oslo, Norway, for meetings of the North Atlantic Council, the North Atlantic Co-operation Council and the CFE (Conventional Forces in Europe) Extraordinary Conference, June 4-5.

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