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AMBASSADORS APPOINTED TO BALTIC STATES AND SWEDEN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced the appointments of the first Canadian ambassadors to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

"Last week I announced Canada's formal recognition of the independence of the three Baltic States," said Mrs. McDougall. "Today I am delighted to cement the ties of friendship between our countries through the appointment of Canadian ambassadors."

Canada is one of the first countries to open direct diplomatic relations with the Baltic States. At present, the three Baltic countries will be covered on a non-resident basis. The accreditation of ambassadors puts Canada's bilateral relations on a firm footing and opens up opportunities for the expansion of political and trade relations.

Mrs. McDougall announced that Mr. Michael Phillips has been appointed Ambassador to Sweden. In addition to his responsibilities in Sweden, Mr. Phillips has also been appointed Ambassador to Lithuania and Latvia.

The current Canadian Ambassador to Finland, Mrs. Mary Vandenhoff, has now also been accredited to Estonia.

Biographies of both ambassadors are attached.

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MICHAEL B. PHILLIPS

Mr. Phillips (BA, University of Saskatchewan, 1962; LL.B, University of Saskatchewan, 1964) joined External Affairs in 1965 after articling with a Saskatoon law firm. He has served abroad in Addis Ababa, Dublin, Nairobi, and as Minister (Political and Public Affairs) in London. In Ottawa, he has worked as Senior Departmental Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and as Director General of the Foreign Policy and General Communications Division. Since May 1989, he has been the Assistant Deputy Minister, United States Relations Branch at the Department of External Affairs. Mr. Phillips is married to Oonagh Mary Phillips and they have two children. Mr. Phillips is replacing Mr. Dennis B. Browne.

MARY E. VANDENHOFF

Mrs. Vandenhoff (BA, Queen's University, 1966; MA, National Autonomous University of Mexico, 1970; MBA, University of Toronto, 1973) joined the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in 1973. She served abroad in Quito as Counsellor (Commercial) from September 1984 to January 1985. In Ottawa, she was Deputy Director, South and Southeast Asia Division from February 1984 to May 1985; Deputy Director, Commercial/Economic Stream from 1985 to 1986; and Director, Export Finance Capital Projects and Trading House Division from 1986 to 1988. She has been Ambassador to the Republic of Finland since 1988. She is married to Jack Vandenhoff. They have three children.