

News Release

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FLORA MACDONALD NAMED CANADIAN CANDIDATE FOR UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES POST

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that the Honourable Flora MacDonald, P.C., is the Canadian candidate for the office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The post became vacant last week following the unexpected resignation of Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg of Norway.

"The successor to Mr. Stoltenberg must be someone with a solid background in international affairs and a clear understanding of the needs and problems of refugees today. I believe Flora MacDonald is that person. As Secretary of State for External Affairs and Minister of Immigration, she acquired a deep understanding of refugee matters. Flora would continue to apply that knowledge as High Commissioner to the benefit of the refugees of the world," said Mr. Clark.

Canada, a strong supporter of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, takes a great interest in the continued success of the organization in its invaluable work with refugees. Mr. Clark underlined that the new High Commissioner must be able to carry on the administration reforms begun within the Office by Mr. Stoltenberg and the re-examination of its role in the face of growing refugee and asylum seeker problems worldwide.

A curriculum vitae for the Honourable Flora MacDonald is attached.

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For more information, media representatives may contact:

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Curriculum Vitae for the Honourable Flora MacDonald

Flora MacDonald served 16 years as Member of Parliament for Kingston and the Islands during which time she held three Cabinet positions: Secretary of State for External Affairs (1979-80), Minister of Employment and Immigration (1984-86) and Minister of Communications (1986-88). As an opposition Member of Parliament, she held the critic's posts for Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Federal-Provincial Relations, External Affairs, and the Status of Women.

Born and educated in North Sydney, Nova Scotia, Flora MacDonald is a graduate of the Empire Business College and, in 1972, became the first woman to successfully complete the National Defence College's one-year course in Canadian and International Studies. She also holds honorary degrees from a number of universities in Canada and in the United States (The University of Maine, Orono; Queen's University, Kingston; McMaster University, Hamilton; Mount Saint Vincent University, Rockingham, Nova Scotia; Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia; The State University of New York, Potsdam; York University, Toronto; and the Royal Military College, Kingston).

Miss MacDonald served as Executive Director of the Progressive Conservative National Headquarters from 1957 to 1966. She spent the next six years as an administrative officer and tutor in the Department of Political Studies at Queen's University. From 1966 to 1969, she was also National Secretary of the Progressive Conservative Association of Canada.

Flora Macdonald has been Director of the Canadian Political Science Association and Member of the Canadian Institute of Public Affairs, the Canadian Institute of International Affairs and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. She is a past President of the Elizabeth Fry Society and served as an executive director of the Committee for an Independent Canada.

Flora MacDonald is currently Director of the following companies and corporations: Canada Trust Company; Institute for Research on Public Policy; Urban Institute in Washington; Canadian Centre for Advanced Film Studies; Canadian Civil Liberties Association; Refugee Policy Group in Washington; Canadian Crafts Council; South Africa Education Trust Fund; and Honourary Chairperson of the National Ballet School. She is Chairperson of the recently formed Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and was a visiting scholar at the Centre for Canadian Studies, University of Edinburgh, September-December, 1989.

In August 1990, Miss MacDonald was appointed Special Advisor to the President of the Commonwealth of Learning, a distance education network linking the 50 countries of the Commonwealth. She has special responsibilities in the preparation of programs for women. In September 1990, Miss MacDonald took over as Hostess of the popular television program, *North-South*, a human affairs series featuring countries in the developing world.