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MCDougall Meets with UN Secretary-General in New York on May 17, 1991

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, will hold a series of meetings at the United Nations in New York, on Friday, May 17, 1991.

"Canada is one of the UN's most loyal supporters," stated the Minister. "As the new Secretary of State for External Affairs, my first trip abroad is to the United Nations precisely to emphasize that our commitment to the UN is a cornerstone of Canadian foreign policy."

During her visit, the Minister will hold discussions with Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, UN Development Program (UNDP) Administrator William Draper and the Executive Director of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), James Grant. She will also meet with the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council to exchange views.

"The UN's agenda is broader than ever before," said Mrs. McDougall. "The aftermath of the Gulf War, the plight of the Kurds, co-ordination of relief efforts to the people in the Horn of Africa and Bangladesh -- these are only some of the major challenges facing the international community."

In recent months, Canada has pledged \$77.5 million in humanitarian assistance to countries affected by the Gulf War, \$16.6 million in relief for Kurdish refugees, \$3 million in emergency relief to help Bangladesh recover from its recent disaster, and \$56.4 million to help famine victims in the Horn of Africa.

A large proportion of this assistance will be channeled through the United Nations and its technical agencies such as the UNDP and UNICEF.

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