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McDOUGALL ANNOUNCES OPENING OF RIGA OFFICE, AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE FOR BALTIC STATES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced the official opening of the Office of the Canadian Embassy in Riga, Latvia. The Minister also announced a \$2.7-million technical assistance project in the agricultural sector for the three Baltic States. These funds are part of a \$25-million technical assistance fund announced by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney at the London Summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) in July.

"The opening of our office in Riga is another sign of the healthy and growing relations between Canada and the Baltic States," said Mrs. McDougall. "Canada opened a similar office in Tallinn, Estonia, in November, and I look forward to being able to announce the opening of an office in Vilnius, Lithuania, early in the new year."

The Riga office is a satellite of Canada's Embassy in Stockholm, which is accredited to Latvia. Through the Riga office, Stockholm-based Embassy officials will provide trade and investment promotion assistance, as well as visa and consular services.

As part of Canada's continuing program of technical assistance to the Baltic States, External Affairs and International Trade Canada's Task Force on Central and Eastern Europe has approved a three-year, \$2.7-million project to assist dairy farmers and veterinarians in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. The need for properly trained dairy specialists and veterinarians in those states is enormous, in light of the rapid privatization of collective and state farms.

External Affairs and
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Canada

The new project will allow 100 Baltic dairy farm managers and veterinarians to receive training at the International Livestock Management Schools (ILMS) of Kemptville, Ontario. Top graduates from the Canadian courses will participate in follow-up training in the Baltic States. Through this process, it is expected that up to 1,200 people will receive instruction.

This is one of about 14 Canadian technical assistance projects for the Baltic States currently completed or approved. Other projects include assistance to the foreign ministries and parliaments of Lithuania and Latvia, and technical and practical advice to firms adapting to a market economy.

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