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CANADA ESTABLISHES ADVISORY GROUP ON CANADA-JAPAN RELATIONS

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall today announced the establishment of an advisory group on the implementation of the final report of the Canada-Japan Forum 2000. The report, presented to the Canadian and Japanese prime ministers in December 1992, contains 19 recommendations to improve Canada-Japan relations.

The Forum, a group of eminent persons co-chaired by former Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed and Yoshio Okawara, recommends a Canada-Japan partnership that:

- improves investment and trade opportunities;
- promotes mutual understanding through increased people-to-people contacts;
- enhances co-operation on global security questions; and
- increases collaboration on pressing world problems, such as the environment, trade, human rights and refugees.

"The Forum report is an important milestone in Canada-Japan relations, and we are committed to translating its recommendations into action," Mrs. McDougall said.

Canada and Japan have agreed to a joint environmental project on the North Pacific. In addition, the two countries have launched talks on increasing people-to-people contacts and on political co-operation in areas, such as peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

In the area of trade and investment, the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, Michael Wilson, last month launched the Japan Action Plan. The plan is designed to help Canadian firms develop opportunities and expand their businesses in Japan.

Mrs. McDougall announced that the Honourable Peter Lougheed will lead the Canadian advisory group. Other members are Dr. Geraldine Kenney-Wallace, President of McMaster University, Dr. Wendy Dobson, Director, Centre for International Business at the University of Toronto, and the Honourable Jean Bazin, Q.C. of Montreal.

A similar advisory group has been established in Japan.

Biographical information on members of the Canadian Forum 2000 advisory group is attached.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
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Backgrounder

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN FORUM 2000 ADVISORY GROUP

PETER LOUGHEED, P.C., C.C., Q.C.

The Honourable Peter Lougheed is a co-chair of the Canada-Japan Forum 2000. Premier of Alberta from 1971 to 1985, Mr. Lougheed is now a partner in the Bennett Jones Verchere law firm in Calgary, and he is lecturer at the University of Calgary and the Banff Centre of Management.

GERALDINE KENNEY-WALLACE

Dr. Geraldine Kenney-Wallace is President and Vice-Chancellor of McMaster University in Hamilton. Dr. Kenney-Wallace was Vice-Chairperson of the Canadian Panel to the Canada-Japan Forum 2000. Chair of the Science Council from 1987 to 1990, she led the 1989 Canada-Japan Complementarity Study that led to new and enhanced research and development funds and projects.

WENDY DOBSON

Dr. Wendy Dobson is Director of the Centre for International Business and a professor at the Faculty of Management, University of Toronto. She served as Associate Deputy Minister, Department of Finance, from 1987 to 1989. Between 1981 and 1987, she was President and Executive Director of the C.D. Howe Institute, Canada's leading economic policy research institute.

JEAN BAZIN, Q.C.

A Canadian Senator from 1986 to 1989, the Honourable Jean Bazin is a senior partner in the Montreal law firm of Byers Casgrain. He has served on boards of numerous Canadian corporations and has held public-service directorships. He is a member of the Canada-Japan Business Council, the Japan Society, the Canada-Japan Trade Council and the Quebec-Japan Business Forum.