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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FREDERICKA GREGORY,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE OSCE, AT
THE 864th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 June 2011

Regarding the arrest of General Ratko Mladić

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada congratulates the Government of Serbia on the arrest of Ratko Mladić, who is accused of dreadful crimes. Canada is pleased that General Mladić has been recently transferred to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to face international justice. We hope that this will bring some comfort to those persons who suffered during the terrible wars in the 1990s in the Western Balkans. This arrest promotes respect for international law and shows that Serbia is fulfilling its international responsibilities.

The wars in the Balkans in the 1990s saw a major involvement on the part of Canada. During those years, more than 40,000 Canadian military personnel served in the Western Balkans to support Canada's commitment to human rights, democracy and stability in that region.

The arrest of Mr. Mladić will serve as a lesson to all those around the world who would violate international law and commit crimes against the civilian population – international justice is working and the OSCE is making a major contribution to that end in our region. We are confident that this message will be received loud and clear through the OSCE: if one commits a crime, one cannot escape justice.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.