



news release

Date **January 28, 1994**
For release

No. 14

CANADIAN NAMED TO SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, Jean-Pierre Kingsley, today announced that the Transitional Executive Council of South Africa has chosen Ron Gould of Elections Canada to be one of five international members of South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission.

"Mr. Gould's appointment is an honour that reflects well on Canada and further illustrates our commitment to the democratic evolution of South Africa. Canada recently announced the allocation of \$2.5 million to support voter education programs, preparations for the election, and election monitors and observers. Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will visit South Africa later this week to discuss election plans with South African leaders," said Mr. Ouellet.

"The selection of Mr. Gould underscores the high regard in which Canadian electoral administration is held internationally. It is also a tribute to Mr. Gould's knowledge and effectiveness, demonstrated during the course of several visits to South Africa," said Mr. Kingsley.

Mr. Gould, currently Canada's Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, will be travelling to South Africa on a regular basis until after the April 27 election. Mr. Gould has frequently participated in Canadian international electoral missions.

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