

News Release

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LATVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Dr. Valdis Birkavs, is visiting Ottawa and Toronto, April 25 to 29, 1995.

"This is the first visit of a foreign minister from Latvia since its renewed independence. It provides an excellent opportunity to express Canada's support for Latvia's transition to democracy and to a market economy," said Mr. Ouellet.

While in Ottawa, Dr. Birkavs will meet with Mr. Ouellet and appear before the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade on April 27. He will open the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia on April 26.

Discussions in Ottawa will focus on Latvia's integration into Western financial and economic institutions, technical assistance and regional security.

On April 27 and 28, Dr. Birkavs will be in Toronto to meet with Canadian companies and the Latvian-Canadian community.

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