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## SENATOR MARTIAL ASSELIN'S VISIT IN TUNISIA

The Honourable Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations, wishes to announce that, in recognition of the friendly relations between Canada and Tunisia,, the Honourable Martial Asselin, Deputy Speaker of the Senate, visited Tunis from January 10 to 12 for meetings with the most senior political authorities of Tunisia.

Senator Asselin was received by the President, Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, after meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Hédi Baccouche, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, the Secretary of State for Cooperation, Mr. Ahmed Ben Arfa and the Education Minister, Mr. Tijani Chelli.

The discussions centered on the reform process introduced by President Ben Ali, the program of cooperation between the two countries, expanding economic relations and a number of international issues.

Senator Asselin, the newly-elected President of the International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians, met with Mr. Rachid Sfar, Speaker of the National Assembly, and with some 20 commission chairmen and parliamentarians. The parties agreed on the need to expand parliamentary interchange, especially in the context of La Francophonie.

Finally, Senator Asselin met with Dr. Hamed Karoui, Director of the Destourian Socialist Party, and with Mr. Ahmed Mestiri, Secretary-General of the Social Democrat Movement.

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