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OUELLET TO ATTEND 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that he will attend the 25th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Montrouis, Haiti, on June 4 and 5. The Minister will be accompanied by Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart.

"The results of this year's General Assembly will be particularly important in shaping the future direction and goals of the OAS," said Mr. Ouellet. "There will be two key challenges facing member countries - defining a new vision for the OAS and implementing the recommendations of the Summit of the Americas. How these challenges are met will have a decisive impact on the shape of future hemispheric co-operation."

While in Haiti, Mr. Ouellet will participate in a gathering of foreign ministers, hosted by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, as a follow-up to the Summit of the Americas held in Miami last December. Mr. Ouellet will also meet with OAS Secretary General César Gaviria Trujillo for a continuation of their discussions which began in February 1995 when the Secretary General visited Canada.

The Minister will meet separately with Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to discuss, among other issues, Canada's support for the legislative elections in Haiti scheduled for June 25.

The OAS General Assembly is an annual gathering of foreign ministers from member countries to exchange views on hemispheric issues and set priorities for joint action in the coming year.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874



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