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OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS TO THE IVORY COAST AND TO KENYA

The Minister for External Relations, the Honourable Monique Vézina, announced today that she will be visiting the Ivory Coast January 8-11 and Kenya January 12-17, 1985.

Canada has maintained excellent relations with the Ivory Coast since its independence. Ministerial visits in both directions over the years and the visit to Canada of President Houphouët-Boigny in June 1983 have contributed to reinforcing and intensifying our bilateral relations. Canadian development assistance to the Ivory Coast has surpassed \$85 million over the past twenty years.

While in the Ivory Coast, Mrs. Vézina will co-chair the second meeting of the Bilateral Commission. At this gathering, general relations between the two countries will be examined and a new General Agreement on Development Assistance will be signed. In addition, this visit of the Minister for External Relations will facilitate the consolidation of cooperation between Canada and the Ivory Coast and permit discussions on major international political issues with senior government officials.

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