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## VISIT OF MINISTER PIERRE DE BANÉ TO FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced today that the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, will be travelling in Francophone Africa from January 13 to 29. He will visit Mali, Upper Volta, Niger and the Ivory Coast.

Pierre De Bané, Adviser to Dr. Mark MacGuigan on Francophone Affairs, is undertaking the tour in order to develop further and strengthen the ties of friendship and co-operation which link Canada and the countries of Francophone Africa. The Minister's meetings with the leading figures in the countries visited will provide an opportunity to assess the various aid programmes, examine the prospects for bilateral co-operation and engage in exchanges of views on various international issues of common interest.

In particular, Mr. De Bané will be leading the Canadian delegation to the annual consultations between Canada and Mali on co-operation programmes to be held in Bamako on January 16 and 17.

Accompanying Mr. De Bané will be representatives of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, the Department of External Affairs, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.