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# news release

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## QUELLET WELCOMES SIGNING OF JORDAN-ISRAEL AGREEMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today warmly welcomed the signing of the Washington Declaration by King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, which brings to an end the "state of belligerency" between Jordan and Israel.

"The signing of the Washington Declaration is another historic step toward the conclusion of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. All Canadians pay tribute to the leadership and courage of King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Minister said that Canada has long encouraged the adoption of the kind of practical confidence-building measures included in the Declaration. Among others, the Washington agreement calls for the connection of Jordanian and Israeli telephone and electrical systems, the free movement of foreign tourists between the two countries and commits both parties to negotiate an end to all economic boycotts.

Mr. Ouellet added that he hopes that other countries in the region will also take such steps to normalize relations with Israel, and he congratulated President Clinton and the U.S. Administration for their essential role in brokering today's agreement.

Canada was represented at the signing ceremony by its Ambassador to the United States, Raymond Chrétien. Canada's presence testifies to its active role in the Peace Process. Canada chairs the Refugee Working Group, and participates in the other four working groups of the Multilateral track of the peace process, as well as being a member of the Multilateral Steering Group.

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