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CANADA TO PARTICIPATE IN CASABLANCA ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that he will lead the Canadian Delegation to the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit, which will take place October 30 to November 1, 1994, in Casablanca, Morocco. The objective of the conference is to consolidate peace in the Middle East through the strengthening of economic co-operation. A Canadian business delegation will attend the conference and will meet with Minister Ouellet to discuss Canadian economic interests in the region.

"The Casablanca Summit is important to Canada. We strongly support the peace process, in which we are an active participant. The strengthening of economic co-operation in the region will further consolidate the progress accomplished so far to ensure a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. We intend to participate fully to achieve that objective," said Mr. Ouellet.

More than 1000 participants from the political, financial and industrial sectors of over 50 countries will attend the conference.

The Summit is organized jointly by the Moroccan government, the Davos World Economic Forum, and the American Council on Foreign Relations. A number of prominent political figures, including Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, will participate in the conference. The Summit is co-sponsored by the United States and Russia.

The main topics on the agenda will include perspectives on the new Middle East, the region's economic potential, economic reforms and privatization, and the role of the Middle East and North Africa in the world economy.

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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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