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VISIT OF THE HONOURABLE DUFF ROBLIN TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the Honourable Duff Roblin, Leader of the Government in the Senate, will lead the Canadian Delegation to the upcoming ministerial meeting of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in Mbabane, Swaziland, January 31 to February 1, 1985.

During the meetings, Senator Roblin is expected to reaffirm support for SADCC's objective of practical regional cooperation and to report on the progress achieved in the five-year, \$125 million Canadian development programme announced in 1984. There will also be opportunities to consult with ministers from independent black African states on recent political and economic developments. In addition, Canada has been asked by the countries of the region to deliver the closing address on behalf of the 25 donor countries expected to attend.

SADCC, a regional group of nine African states created in 1979, aims to forge links of regional integration through cooperation on projects in key economic sectors: agriculture, energy, transport and communications, and human resources. SADCC's members are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Following the Conference, Senator Roblin will pay a bilateral visit to Zimbabwe, February 2 to 4. During his stay, Senator Roblin will meet with Zimbabwe's leaders to review relations with Canada. He will also visit several development projects with a view to assessing the Canadian aid programme currently running at about \$15 million annually. A number of project agreements are expected to be concluded.