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CANADA WELCOMES OAS MISSION TO HAITI

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, said today she welcomes the announcement that a civilian mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) will be arriving in Haiti this week.

"This is a step in the right direction," said Mrs. McDougall, who noted that the deployment of this mission is the result of recent discussions between the Secretary General of the OAS, Mr. Baena Soares, and representatives of President Aristide and the de facto regime.

"I would like to commend the Secretary General for the part he is playing in this process," said Mrs. McDougall. "I encourage him and the parties concerned to continue their efforts. Our goal continues to be the return of constitutional democracy in Haiti."

The mandate of the group is to foster respect for human rights and assist in the distribution of humanitarian assistance. Three Canadians will be part of the 18-member mission.

- 30 -

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