

# News Release

February 3, 1995

No. 20

## OUELLET EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION IN BURUNDI

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today called upon Burundi's political leadership to lend its support to the moderate elements in the government and expressed his concern about the serious deterioration of the political situation in the country.

"Canada welcomed the agreement reached by Burundi's political parties in September 1994," said Mr. Ouellet. "We condemn those who are attempting to interfere with the process of national reconciliation and advocating the overthrow of the government. The international community is not willing to accept any such actions."

Mr. Ouellet invited the armed forces of Burundi to maintain their support for the coalition government and called upon the militias of the warring factions to lay down their arms and to renounce the use of violence.

The Minister said that he regrets any actions that may derail efforts to stabilize the situation in the region, and that Canada remains committed to the Conference on Refugees in Central Africa, which is planned for Bujumbura, February 15-17. He added that he has asked Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart to represent Canada at the Conference.

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