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# news release

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## OUELLET SUPPORTS RWANDA MISSION BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICIAL

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today called for a special emergency session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the crisis in Rwanda. This follows the decision of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, to undertake a mission this weekend to Rwanda and Burundi.

"Canada supports the High Commissioner's initiative. We believe that the protection of human rights must be central to the UN's response to this terrible tragedy," said Mr. Ouellet.

Principal responsibility for UN action in Rwanda remains with the Security Council, and Canada has indicated its support for an expanded effort by the Council. Mr. Ayala Lasso will review prospects for creating a UN human rights monitoring presence in conjunction with any broader operation mandated by the Security Council.

On the Minister's instructions, Canadian representatives in Geneva formally called for a special emergency session of the Commission on Human Rights to hear the High Commissioner's report on his mission. Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York will also urge members of the Security Council to give early consideration to the report.

Canada was instrumental in securing the creation in December 1993 of the new office of High Commissioner for Human Rights.

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