



news release

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OUELLET CONDEMNS ESCALATION OF FIGHTING IN ANGOLA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today called on both sides in the Angolan conflict to refrain from further military action and to display the courage required to conclude a successful peace agreement.

"Canada is dismayed by the dangerous escalation of fighting that is occurring just as the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the Government of Angola appear to be on the verge of an agreement at the Lusaka talks. The increase in military activity is needlessly jeopardizing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the over three million victims of this cruel and senseless conflict," said Mr. Ouellet.

After seven months of UN-led negotiations, a mediation package has been developed to lead to a cease-fire and the establishment of a government of national unity. The Government of Angola has indicated its acceptance of the package, but UNITA has yet to respond.

Mr. Ouellet stressed that UNITA cannot afford to forfeit another opportunity for peace if it wishes to avoid further condemnation and isolation by the international community. Canada has already imposed sanctions against UNITA, prohibiting the sale or supply of arms and petroleum products, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 864 adopted on September 15, 1993.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874