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CANADA CONGRATULATES THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY ON ITS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs today sent a message of congratulations to The Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, President Moi of Kenya, on the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the OAU.

The message reads: "Excellency: On behalf of the people and the Government of Canada I would like to extend our warmest good wishes on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity. For twenty years OAU member states and their citizens have devoted themselves to the attainment of the independence, peace and economic development of the African continent. Their record of achievement in the face of daunting challenges is impressive.

Canada and Canadians have watched with admiration as OAU members have striven to uphold the high ideals embodied in the OAU charter. Whenever possible we have worked together with African states to promote Africa's economic development. We have supported the struggle for African independence in the past and will continue to do so until the decolonization of Africa is complete and the abhorrent system of apartheid has disappeared.

Mr. President: On behalf of the Government of Canada and all Canadians I would like to convey to you and to all Africans our best wishes for the future success of the OAU; mindful of your past achievements, I am confident that you will not fail to meet the new challenges which will confront you in the years to come.

Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs".