



news release

Date **April 8, 1994**

No. 69

For release

CANADA CALLS FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE IN RWANDA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today called for an immediate end to violence in Rwanda.

"Canadians are shocked at these acts of terrorism and appeal urgently for moderation on the part of all parties to end the senseless loss of life in Rwanda," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Minister indicated that Canada would stand firmly behind all regional initiatives designed to find just and lasting solutions to the conflicts of Central Africa.

The consular situation in Rwanda continues to deteriorate. The approximately two hundred Canadians registered at the office of the Canadian Embassy are at considerable risk from the continuing fighting in and around Kigali, but reports indicate that Canadians do not appear to be targeted in the fighting. There have been reports that foreigners have been separated from Rwandans before the Rwandans were killed. The Department does not have any reports of any Canadians being killed or injured beyond the earlier press reports of the deaths of the wife of the Minister of Labour and their two children. However, there is no independent corroboration of this.

In co-operation with other countries, Canada will evacuate Canadians from the country as soon as conditions permit this to be done without increased risk. Consultations are ongoing with other concerned countries as to how and when an evacuation can be effected. In the meantime, Canadians are being advised to remain indoors. The Canadian mission in Kigali and shortwave news broadcasts on Radio Canada International (RCI) and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) will carry further information on what will be done.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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