

News Release

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OUELLET PRAISES PEACE INITIATIVE IN SRI LANKA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today welcomed the announcement by President Chandrika Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka of an agreement reached with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on a ceasefire and the holding of peace talks. President Kumaratunga made the announcement following a meeting between the Government and the LTTE held in Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka.

"Canada welcomes this positive development and commends President Kumaratunga for her commitment to seek a peaceful solution to the bloody communal conflict which has afflicted Sri Lanka for over a decade," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Minister called on the parties to participate in these peace talks in a serious and constructive manner in the interests of all Sri Lankans.

At the request of the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE, Canada has agreed, in principle, to the participation of a Canadian expert to assist in monitoring the ceasefire.

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