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CANADA TO HOST MEETING ON UN PEACEKEEPING

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Canada will host a meeting April 29 to May 1, 1994, to support the United Nations (UN) efforts to strengthen its ability to plan, mount and conduct peacekeeping operations. The event will bring together senior UN officials and representatives of 23 UN member states.

"Peacekeeping is an important element of Canadian foreign policy, and we have been a leader in international efforts to strengthen UN peacekeeping. This meeting will help the UN realize its long-term strategy for improvement in this crucial area of international peace and security," said Mr. Ouellet.

Mr. Ouellet added that participants will not focus on specific peacekeeping missions, but rather the overall political and institutional framework within which peacekeeping is conducted.

The meeting comes as a response to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's call for member states to participate in UN peacekeeping reforms. Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Koffie Annan, and Major-General Maurice Baril, the Military Advisor to the United Nations for Peacekeeping Operations, will attend. The meeting will be co-chaired by Department of Foreign Affairs Assistant Deputy Minister Gaétan Lavertu and Department of National Defence Associate Deputy Minister Major-General Jean Boyle.

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