

News Release

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PRESIDENT OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF LA FRANCOPHONIE TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that the President of the Permanent Council of La Francophonie (CPF), Mr. Émile-Derlin Zinsou, will make an official visit to Canada from June 12 to 15, 1995. Mr. Zinsou will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Minister Ouellet in Ottawa.

"I am very pleased to welcome Mr. Zinsou only months away from the sixth Francophone Summit. The visit of the President of the Permanent Council of La Francophonie provides another opportunity for the Government of Canada to show its commitment to La Francophonie," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Minister and the President will discuss preparations for the sixth Francophone Summit to be held next December in Cotonou, Benin. They will also discuss the Conference on Preventive Diplomacy, an initiative proposed by Mr. Ouellet at the last ministerial meeting in Ouagadougou. This conference will be held in Ottawa in September and will be hosted by Mr. Ouellet on behalf of the Government of Canada. It is expected to result in proposals that will be tabled at the upcoming Cotonou Summit.

After his visit to Ottawa, Mr. Zinsou will travel to New Brunswick and Quebec, where he will meet with government authorities. Both provinces have participating-government status in La Francophonie.

The CPF is made up of representatives of the Heads of State or Government of 15 countries and is responsible for the preparation and follow-up of Francophone Summits. Mr. Zinsou, who is of Beninese origin, has been President of the CPF since the last Francophone Ministerial Conference in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in December 1994.

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