



news release

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CANADA TO HOST SYMPOSIUM FOR SENIOR OFFICERS OF MIDDLE EASTERN NAVAL FORCES

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Canada will host a Symposium on Maritime Confidence-Building Measures for Commanders and other senior officers of Middle Eastern naval forces. The Symposium, which will be held from August 29 to September 1, 1994, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, is taking place in the context of the Middle East Peace Process.

"Canada is particularly pleased to host this Symposium which will bring together, for the first time, high-ranking Israeli and Arab naval officers. Canada is strongly committed to taking concrete steps to advance the Middle East Peace Process. This Symposium represents a rare opportunity for senior officers from the region to exchange views face-to-face," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Halifax Symposium is intended to allow Middle Eastern naval officers to follow up on progress to date on such issues as multilateral co-operation in Search and Rescue operations, Prevention of Incidents at Sea, and regional maritime security and co-operation. Representatives of the United States and Russia, as co-sponsors of the Peace Process, will also attend. The Canadian Coast Guard will provide a demonstration of Canadian Search and Rescue techniques.

The Halifax Symposium, which will be hosted by Rear-Admiral Gary Garnett, Commander of the Canadian Navy's Atlantic fleet, is being organized by Dalhousie University's Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, on behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Attached is a backgrounder which provides more details on Canada's contribution to Maritime Confidence-Building Measures in the Middle East.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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