

# News Release

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## OUELLET WELCOMES CANADIAN APPOINTMENTS TO OAS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today welcomed the appointment of two Canadians to the Organization of American States (OAS). The appointments were announced yesterday by OAS Secretary-General César Gaviria.

Elizabeth Spehar was appointed Executive Co-ordinator of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy. Currently Head of the Americas Program at the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development in Montreal, Ms. Spehar will take up her new duties in Washington on January 23, 1995.

The Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, originally a Canadian proposal, was created in 1990. It is the primary instrument for regional efforts to consolidate democratic gains in the hemisphere through election monitoring and assistance programs to strengthen electoral and legislative institutions and processes, and civic education to promote democratic values.

Hélène Laverdière, now at the Canadian Mission to the OAS, has been appointed Director of the Department of Human Resources. She will take up her new duties in mid-January. As Director, Ms. Laverdière will be responsible for all personnel management systems, including staffing, contracting, classification, compensation and evaluation for an OAS staff of over 600 people.

"Canada welcomes the opportunity to make continued contributions to the effectiveness of the OAS, in areas as diverse but important as democratic development and human resource management," said Mr. Ouellet. "These appointments are part of a series of ongoing measures designed to give Canada a stronger and more visible role in this organization."

- 30 -

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