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OUELLET CONDEMNS GAZA BOMBINGS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today condemned the terrorist bombings on Sunday that killed six Israeli soldiers in Gaza and injured many more.

"Canadians are shocked by these attacks. They are an attempt to derail the peace process by enemies of peace, by people who have nothing but contempt for the value of life," he said.

Mr. Ouellet expressed heartfelt sympathy for the victims and their families. He called on Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to redouble his efforts to control terrorism and urged Israeli leaders to exercise forbearance. He also praised Prime Minister Rabin for declaring that Israel would pursue the peace negotiations despite the attacks.

Mr. Ouellet noted that these incidents underscore the need to accelerate the peace talks, to facilitate early Palestinian elections and ultimately to decide on the future of settlements like those in Gaza that are a focal point for continued violence.

- 30 -

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