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# news release

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## **CANADIANS TO SERVE AS UN ELECTORAL OBSERVERS IN EL SALVADOR**

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced today that six Canadians will serve as civilian observers during the national elections in El Salvador scheduled for March 20, 1994.

"These elections are extremely important for El Salvador. Salvadorans have suffered through twelve years of violence and civil war. Canada has supported the peace process since it began, and we are pleased to now be helping in the electoral process. We hope that these elections will lead to a new era of peace and democracy," said Mr. Ouellet.

Salvadorans will be voting for a new President and National Assembly, municipal districts officials, and their representatives to the Central American Parliament. The Canadian observers are being sent in response to a request from the United Nations, which is monitoring implementation of the Salvadoran peace accords through its Observer Mission in El Salvador. The UN will field up to 1100 observers across El Salvador on election day.

In the past two years the Canadian International Development Agency has contributed over \$687 000 to Salvadoran institutions and non-governmental organizations promoting electoral awareness, as well as to the United Nations Development Program for electoral training and equipment.

- 30 -

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