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## BEATTY WELCOMES MUTUAL RECOGNITION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PLO

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty today expressed Canada's satisfaction over the mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

"This is an historic development for the Middle East. It symbolizes a tangible willingness to pursue peace in the region, by two former enemies, and is cause for great hope," the Minister said. He also expressed optimism that the momentum created by the past few days would assist in resolving the many issues that still remain in the overall peace process.

Regarding the bilateral negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours, Mr. Beatty said that Canada hopes that all the regional parties, as well as the international community, will deploy their best efforts to consolidate the progress of recent days.

"Canada remains firmly committed to the peace process through its participation in the multilateral phase of the negotiations and especially through its role as gavel holder of the Working Group on Refugees," Mr. Beatty said.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for October 12-14, 1993 in Tunis.

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