



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

No:
No.: 97

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: NOVEMBER 24, 1980

CANADIAN INVOLVEMENT IN OBSERVATION OF UGANDAN ELECTIONS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced today that the Honourable Barnett Danson, P.C., has been appointed to serve with the Commonwealth group being formed to observe the December 10 elections in Uganda. Mr. Danson, former Minister of State for Urban Affairs and former Minister of National Defence, is currently in London for consultations with the other Commonwealth observers and the Commonwealth Secretariat about the projected observer operation. The observers will depart from London for Uganda this evening.

Mr. Danson will be assisted by a small Canadian staff as well as by a support group being fielded by the Commonwealth Secretariat. An advance team from the Secretariat is now in Kampala to prepare for the observer operation.

Other Commonwealth countries providing observers for the Commonwealth Observer Group are Australia, Barbados, Botswana, Britain, Cyprus, Ghana, India and Sierra Leone.

Uganda has had an interim government since the overthrow of General Idi Amin early in 1979. The present government has invited Commonwealth countries, through the Commonwealth Secretariat, to observe the elections and thus to facilitate the return to representative government in Uganda.

Mr. Danson was born in Toronto, Ontario. He served with the Queen's Own Rifles during World War II. He was elected Member of Parliament for York-North in 1968 and was re-elected twice. Mr. Danson is currently President of Dash-Air Incorporated.