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## VISIT OF THE GABONESE FOREIGN MINISTER

At the invitation of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Gabonese Republic, Mr. Jean Rémy Ayouné, arrived in Ottawa on October 6 to pay a brief visit to Canada.

Mr. Ayouné, who was accompanied to Ottawa by Mr. Léonard Antoine Badinga, Gabonese Ambassador designate to Canada, and Mr. Paul Moukambi, Deputy Secretary-General in the Office of His Excellency the President of Gabon, met with the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the afternoon of October 7. During the day, the Gabonese Minister and his suite also met with officials of the Department of External Affairs and visited the Canadian International Development Agency.

The discussions were conducted in a very cordial atmosphere and dealt notably with major subjects of international and African interest, including the current situation in Nigeria. In addition, the Gabonese and Canadian Ministers discussed the future development of relations between the two countries, aid co-operation arrangements, and had a useful exchange of views on Francophonie. In this connection they underlined the importance of rapidly intensifying Francophone co-operation.

In the context of bilateral relations, the two Ministers agreed that they would recommend to their governments that immediate steps should be taken to permit the early presentation of credentials in the respective capitals by Canadian and Gabonese ambassadors.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Gabonese Foreign Minister agreed that all Canadian aid undertakings in Gabon, whether their primary sponsorship was federal or provincial, would be the subject of continuing co-ordination at the level of the Canadian and Gabonese governments.