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COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP FOR NAMIBIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Bernard Wood is the Canadian member of the Commonwealth Observer Group for Namibia. This special Commonwealth initiative is designed to support the United Nations' effort to assure free and fair elections and Namibia's subsequent transition to independence.

The Group begins work in Namibia today and will observe the pre-election process there until October 11. It will then report through the Commonwealth Secretary General to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which opens in Kuala Lumpur on October 18. The Group is chaired by Alf Parsons of Australia and includes members from Canada, the Gambia, India, Jamaica, Malaysia and Zambia. The initiative for its creation arose at a meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa chaired by Mr. Clark in Canberra last August.

Mr. Wood, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security since February 1989, chaired a successful two-day workshop on Namibia in July organized by the Institute for the benefit of non-governmental and other observers. In his previous capacity as founding Director of the North/South Institute, Mr. Wood served as Prime Minister Mulroney's Personal Representative on Southern Africa in 1985 and 1986. He also prepared the Prime Minister's visit to the region in early 1987.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures