



news release

Date **May 27, 1994**

No. 108

For release

SECRETARY OF STATE STEWART TO ATTEND 24TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will lead the Canadian delegation to the 24th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), which will be held in Belem, Brazil from June 5 to 11, 1994.

"Canada fully supports the role the OAS can play in furthering hemispheric co-operation on a broad range of issues, and will work closely with other OAS partners to address them effectively and efficiently," said Mrs. Stewart.

In addition to participating in the plenary sessions of the Assembly, during which she will deliver an address outlining Canada's priorities in the OAS and in the region, Mrs. Stewart will take part in an Informal Dialogue of Heads of Delegation on June 5 and an Ad Hoc Meeting of Foreign Ministers on Haiti on June 6. She will also hold bilateral talks with foreign ministers from several OAS member countries.

Mrs. Stewart indicated that the major topics of interest for Canada at the General Assembly include human rights and democratic development, security issues, regional integration and sustainable development, as well as discussion of the Summit of the Americas, scheduled for December 10 and 11.

The OAS is the oldest regional organization in the world. The General Assembly is the annual meeting of the 34 participating members, representing all the independent nations of the Hemisphere except Cuba whose membership remains under suspension.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874