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OAS SECRETARY-GENERAL TO VISIT CANADA

The Honourable Barbara McDougall, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that Ambassador João Baena Soares, Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), would be visiting Canada from November 1 to 5.

"Mr. Soares' visit will provide an opportunity to discuss the situation in Haiti and to take stock of the OAS's efforts to restore constitutional government in that country," said Mrs. McDougall.

The Minister and the Secretary-General will also discuss OAS reform and the establishment of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, a Canadian initiative designed to help consolidate democracy in the Western Hemisphere. The role of the OAS in monitoring the Peruvian elections of November 22 will also be on the agenda.

During his visit, Dr. Baena Soares will receive an Honourary Doctorate from the Université du Québec in Quebec City, for his outstanding contribution to the promotion and implementation of international co-operation. He will deliver a number of lectures and will meet the Canadian media. In Toronto, he will meet representatives of the business community, at a luncheon hosted by Mrs. McDougall.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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