



news release

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QUELLET TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON FOR SIGNING OF MUSLIM-CROAT FEDERATION AGREEMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet will travel to Washington to attend Friday's signing of an agreement creating a Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

"This is an important step toward ending the tragic conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina and elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia. The Bosnian Serbs must now participate actively in the process so that a lasting peace can be achieved," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Minister welcomed the recent progress in establishing cease-fires in many parts of Bosnia-Hercegovina and in Croatia, saying that the cease-fires would help create a climate more conducive to the negotiation of an overall agreement. Mr. Ouellet also praised the parties for their willingness to compromise so the agreement could be reached. The Minister underlined Canada's commitment to support fully diplomatic efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement to the conflict and to provide relief to its victims. He recalled that on March 10, Canada renewed its substantial peacekeeping contribution in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia for an additional six months.

The Bosnian presidency and Croatian community representatives reached agreement March 13 to establish a federation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The United States played a central role in helping broker this agreement.

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