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NAMIBIA TO GET CANADIAN BALLOT BOXES AND ELECTION OFFICIAL

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Canada is providing further support for the Namibian elections in the form of ballot boxes. He also welcomed the United Nations' selection of a Canadian, Harry Neufeld, to be its senior electoral computer expert. UN-supervised elections are to be held in early November to choose a constituent assembly, whose purpose is to draft the constitution under which Namibia is to gain independence early next year.

"We want to help make these long-awaited elections as free and fair as they possibly can be" Mr. Clark said. "Canada has already provided peacekeepers, diplomatic observers and aid for refugee repatriation. Now our equipment and expertise will help ensure that the voting is both secret and as accessible as possible".

The 4000 metal ballot boxes, which will remain in Namibia after independence, have been donated by Elections Canada. They are about to be shipped to Namibia, with the cost covered by the Canadian International Development Agency. The combined contribution is worth over \$100,000.

Harry Neufeld of Elections British Columbia has been appointed to the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) to help establish and maintain a computerized voters' list, an area in which he has considerable expertise. Mr. Neufeld is to leave for Namibia shortly on an assignment lasting until December, in which he will be addressing key issues regarding procedures for registration and voting.

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures