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McDOUGALL WELCOMES TALKS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today warmly welcomed the announcement that South African President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela will meet on September 26 to discuss measures to control the widespread violence in South Africa.

"This is a very hopeful first step toward the resumption of multi-party negotiations on a new constitution," said Mrs. McDougall.

The two leaders have not met since the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), the multi-party negotiations on a transition to a non-racial democracy, broke down in May. The ANC suspended talks with the Government following the massacre of 43 people at Boipatong on June 17.

In the wake of the tragic loss of life during a demonstration at Bisho, Ciskei on September 7, Mrs. McDougall has been in regular contact with Mr. Mandela and Foreign Minister Pik Botha. She has emphasized that all parties should come together to find constructive solutions to end the violence, and that Canada will contribute in a practical way to support measures aimed at rebuilding trust and confidence.

In line with this, following a meeting in Ottawa on September 14 with Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Anyaoku, the Minister announced that Canada would participate in a Commonwealth observer team to be sent to South Africa within the next few weeks. The team will work in close co-operation with groups from the United Nations (UN), the European Community and the Organization of African