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CANADA TO SEND ELECTION OBSERVATION TEAM TO ETHIOPIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, today announced that Canada is sending a seven-member mission to Ethiopia to observe regional elections to be held June 21 and ensure that they are democratic.

"The President of Ethiopia has asked the international community to help monitor the election process," said Mrs. McDougall. "We are sending observers because support for democracy is one of our foreign policy priorities."

"Encouraging and fostering local efforts for building democratic institutions and culture is in keeping with Africa 21, the newly developed Canadian strategy for Africa into the next century," said Mrs. Landry.

Canada has followed with keen interest developments in Ethiopia since the civil war ended in that country last year. It is fully aware of the difficulties encountered on the road to bringing about a multi-party democracy in Ethiopia. Canada is sending the observer team under the auspices of the Electoral Observation Fund, jointly sponsored by External Affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency.

The mission to Ethiopia will include the Honourable David MacDonald, Member of Parliament and former Ambassador to Ethiopia; Mr. Jessie Flis, Member of Parliament; Mr. Merrill Wigginton, Director General of Elections for Prince Edward Island; Mr. Robert Patterson, Director General of Elections for British Columbia; Mr. Warren Ballie, Director General of Elections Ontario; Mrs. Janice Baker, interim Director