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CANADA WELCOMES PROGRESS TOWARD MOZAMBICAN CEASE-FIRE

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 welcomed the recent progress toward a cease-fire in Mozambique.

Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano and Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) President Afonso Dhlakama signed an accord on August 7 in Rome, committing the two parties to resolve all outstanding issues and sign a cease-fire agreement by October 1.

"We strongly urge both parties to move quickly toward the signing of a cease-fire agreement to bring an end to the tragic 16-year civil war in Mozambique," said Mrs. McDougall.

"A lasting cease-fire would help Canada and other donors to deliver desperately needed relief to the people of Mozambique, who are also facing the worst drought in decades," said Mrs. Landry.

The Ministers praised the Government of Italy, the San Egidio religious community in Rome and the Roman Catholic Church of Mozambique for mediating direct negotiations between the Mozambique Government and RENAMO over the past two years. They also drew attention to the significant roles played by President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Foreign Minister Gaositwe Chiepe of Botswana.

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