

News Release

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CANADA WELCOMES VISIT OF OAS SECRETARY-GENERAL

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), César Gaviria, will arrive in Canada on February 20 for a one-day visit.

"Canada is an active member of the OAS and places great importance on relations with its OAS partners," said Mr. Ouellet. "The visit of Mr. Gaviria is a timely opportunity to discuss in detail the results of the recent Summit of the Americas, Canada's goals in the region, as well as ways of making the OAS more responsive to the changing needs of the region and its members."

Mr. Gaviria will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and will meet with Mr. Ouellet and senior government officials.

Mr. Gaviria will also participate in a round-table discussion organized by the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), a private organization that promotes business, academic, political and cultural co-operation between Canada and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The mandate of the OAS is to strengthen peace and security, promote democracy and help settle political, judicial and economic problems in the region. It also promotes the economic, social and cultural development of its members.

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