



news release

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CANADA WELCOMES AGREEMENT TO REINSTATE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today welcomed the agreement to peacefully reinstate the democratically elected government of Lesotho.

"Canada looks forward to seeing democracy restored in Lesotho. The agreement will help to promote the dialogue needed to resolve the constitutional problems that have gripped the country," said Mr. Ouellet.

The agreement was signed in Masuru today by King Letsie III and Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle following mediation efforts by Presidents Mandela of South Africa, Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Masire of Botswana. Mr. Ouellet noted Canada's firm support for the involvement of regional leaders in helping to bring an end to the crisis.

Lesotho's constitutional crisis began on August 17, 1994, when King Letsie III dissolved the elected government, suspended parts of the constitution and appointed a provisional council to run the country.

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