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OUELLET WELCOMES RELEASE OF FRENCH PILOTS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today welcomed the release of two French pilots held by the Bosnian Serbs.

"I am relieved that the French pilots have been freed and are returning home safe and sound. Their release is a positive sign that the Bosnian Serb leadership is committed to co-operating with the international community in implementing the historic peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina," said Mr. Ouellet.

"I congratulate the French government for its success in securing the release of the pilots. I wish them and their families all the best in the holiday season," he added.

The two pilots were shot down over Bosnian Serb-controlled territory on August 30 during NATO air strikes launched in response to the shelling of Bosnian safe areas.

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