



news release

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QUELLET LAUDS ANGLO-IRISH DECLARATION

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today welcomed the Joint Declaration on Northern Ireland issued in London on December 15 by Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom, and Prime Minister Albert Reynolds of Ireland.

"Prime ministers Major and Reynolds have taken an important step forward in their efforts to achieve peace, stability and reconciliation in Ireland. I hope that those who have pursued their objectives through violence will now have the wisdom to seize this opportunity to reconcile their differences peacefully," Mr. Ouellet said.

The principles contained in the joint declaration respect the rights, beliefs and values of both communities in Ireland, and accept the need to proceed with the consent of the people of Northern Ireland. Mr. Ouellet underlined that Canada has long supported efforts to achieve peace in Northern Ireland. For example, Canada has provided financial support to the International Fund for Ireland, established by the British and Irish governments to encourage dialogue and reconciliation between unionists and nationalists.

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