

News Release

September 27, 1995

No. 178

OUELLET TO ATTEND SIGNING OF ISRAEL-PLO AGREEMENT IN WASHINGTON

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet will represent Canada at the White House signing ceremony on Thursday, September 28, for the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) agreement on implementing the second phase of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

"This agreement is a testament to the determination of Israeli and Palestinian leaders to pursue peace. It marks an important milestone in the process of bringing peace and stability to the region," said Mr. Ouellet.

The new agreement transfers responsibility for civil administration in the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority and includes a timetable for the redeployment of Israeli troops from the West Bank. It sets out terms for elections to the Palestinian Council, as well as for the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Mr. Ouellet added that Canada remains committed to the pursuit of peace in the Middle East, particularly through its work as gavel (chair) of the Refugee Working Group. In addition, he said Canada will continue its program of development and electoral assistance in the West Bank and Gaza.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874

