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THE HONOURABLE MONIQUE VÉZINA TO VISIT WEST AFRICA AND FRANCE

The Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Vézina, will visit four West African countries and France from May 7 to 16.

Mrs. Vézina will visit Benin on May 8 and 9; Ghana, May 10 to 12; Niger, May 12; Mali, May 12 to 14; and France, May 14 to 16. She will hold talks with African heads of state and government on prospects for co-operation between Canada and their countries, and on political and economic developments in the region. She will also use the occasion to meet numerous ministers and the Canadian community at work in these countries, and to visit projects supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

"On the one hand, the purpose of this visit is to reaffirm Canada's commitments toward Africa and further to lend support to the ongoing process of democratization and economic reform on the continent. On the other hand, the tour will provide an opportunity to take stock of Canada's bilateral and regional assistance programs and make preparations for this October's Mauritius Summit of La Francophonie," said the Minister.

At the end of her West African visit, Mrs. Vézina will travel to France, where she will meet with the new French

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