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CANADA WILL HELP PROTECT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark and the Minister for External Relations and International Development, the HonourableMonique Landry, today announced that Canada has agreed to respond to requests for assistance for the protection of infrastructure projects in southern Africa. Projects funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and other international donors through the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) have increasingly become susceptible to sabotage.

Requests for security assistance were discussed at last year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and more recently at the meeting Comonwealth Foreign Ministers in Toronto.

"The success of development projects in the SADCC region, particularly in the transportation and energy sectors, depends on the ability of those countries to protect the project sites. Destabilization and insurgency activities continue to be a threat to major development projects, such as the planned rehabilitation of the Limpopo line in Mozambique. We are now ready to join other governments in providing this type of protection", Mr. Clark said.

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Secretary of State for External Affairs Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures

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