

# News Release

September 24, 1995

No. 173

## OUELLET WELCOMES ISRAEL-PLO PEACE ACCORD

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet welcomed today's agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) implementing the second phase of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

"The agreement reached by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is another important step in the process of bringing peace and stability to the region," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Minister praised the courage and determination of Israeli and Palestinian leaders to pursue peace. He stated that, despite attacks that have claimed the lives of many innocent people, "the peace accord is proof that the proponents of peace will succeed."

The agreement transfers responsibility for civil administration in the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority and sets out a schedule for the redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank. The agreement also specifies the terms for elections to a Palestinian Council and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Canada looks forward to participating actively in the ongoing Middle East Peace Process and to playing a significant role in the economic development of the region.

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