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MONIQUE LANDRY NAMES OBSERVERS TO
HAITIAN ELECTION

The Honourable Monique Landry, Canada's Minister for External Relations, announced today that the Canadian government had accepted the Haitian government's invitation to send official observers to the first round of voting in the presidential and legislative election scheduled to take place throughout Haiti on November 29. The official Canadian observers appointed by Mrs. Landry are Mr. Michel Gauvin, former Canadian Ambassador and Special Representative of the U.N. Human Rights Commission to Haiti (December 1986), who will lead the Canadian group, Pierre-F. Côté, Q.C., Chief Electoral Officer of Quebec and President of the Electoral Representation Commission, and Mr. Richard Balasko, Executive Assistant and Registrar, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Elections Canada.

In Mrs. Landry's words, "The decision to send observers to Haiti under the difficult circumstances presently being experienced by that country coincides with my government's desire to promote a democratic voting procedure that will result in a representative government being elected."

The Canadian government will remain in contact with the Haitian authorities in order to ensure that its observers have the services and facilities required to verify the voting procedure, and are authorized to observe the elections in the places of their choice.

"It is important that our observers have the freedom to properly assess the way in which the Haitian election is conducted", added Mrs. Landry.