

News Release

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SECRETARY OF STATE STEWART TO VISIT SOUTHERN AFRICA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will visit Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Swaziland, with brief stops in Zimbabwe and South Africa, September 13-22.

"There have been dramatic political and economic changes throughout Southern Africa in the last five years," said Mrs. Stewart. "The democratic evolution is ongoing, but many challenges remain. Many of these countries, in particular Malawi and Mozambique – the most recent countries to have held successful multi-party elections – are in the process of rebuilding their economies and societies."

Mrs. Stewart noted that years of political turmoil, economic decline and repeated drought have taken their toll in Southern Africa and she will discuss ways in which Canada can assist the countries of this region in their efforts to become self-sufficient. Among the projects which Mrs. Stewart will be launching during her visit is a regional wetlands management program funded by the Canadian International Development Agency's \$7.5 million contribution, announced on August 18 by Mr. Ouellet.

During her visit, the Secretary of State is expected to meet with President Chiluba of Zambia, President Muluzi of Malawi, Prime Minister Mocumbi of Mozambique and His Majesty King Mswati III of Swaziland. In addition to bilateral issues, Mrs. Stewart will raise Commonwealth-related matters with fellow members Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and South Africa.

The Secretary of State will visit Canadian-supported projects in the key sectors of health and education as well as examine the issue of de-mining in Mozambique. In addition to meeting with government representatives, Mrs. Stewart will meet with

