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# news release

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Date **November 18, 1993**

No. 214

For release

## QUELLET COMMENDS AGREEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICAN TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today welcomed the endorsement of an interim constitution and electoral act by South African parties at a Multiparty Plenary Session.

"This marks a very important and courageous step toward the creation of a truly non-racial and democratic South Africa," said Mr. Ouellet. "As long ago as September 1970 in an address to the United Nations General Assembly, I emphasized Canada's support for measures designed to combat apartheid through peaceful means. The long struggle against apartheid is almost over, and we can be proud of the role that Canada has played in encouraging peaceful change in South Africa."

The agreement will permit the establishment of a Transitional Executive Council and other interim organizations, including an independent electoral commission to oversee the first non-racial elections, scheduled for April 27, 1994.

Mr. Ouellet called on those parties that have withdrawn from the multiparty negotiations to participate fully in the transitional arrangements and the upcoming elections.

"The future of South Africa will depend on the commitment of all its people to work together peacefully," he said.

Canada has been providing assistance for policy development in the critical areas of education, macro-economics and public administration and the training of South Africans for the post-apartheid Civil Service. Canada will continue to assist South Africans in the critical period leading up to their first non-racial elections, Mr. Ouellet indicated.

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