

News Release

Communiqué

Department of
External
Affairs



Ministère des
Affaires
extérieures

No. 243

October 12, 1989.

CANADA ACTS ON UN REQUEST

TO SEND ELECTION SUPERVISORS TO NAMIBIA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Canada has agreed to the request from the United Nations Secretary General to provide 40 election supervisors for the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia. The team of Canadian election supervisors will spend a month in Namibia. UNTAG is the integrated military/police/civilian operation overseeing Namibia's transition to independence including elections to a Constituent Assembly November 7-11.

"Our election supervisors represent a true cross-section of Canada and the finest ideals of its people" said Mr. Clark. "I salute their dedication in giving a month of their own time under difficult conditions to help bring democracy to Africa's last colony, and to help implement a longstanding Canadian foreign policy priority". The Minister also acknowledged the assistance of Elections Canada in recruiting, selecting and briefing the supervisors.

The 40 election supervisors come from all regions of Canada and all walks of life (list attached). They were nominated by the three national political parties and by federal and provincial electoral institutions.

The Canadian team leaves for Namibia from Montreal on Tuesday, October 24, which is, most appropriately, United Nations Day. In Namibia, they will join 800 supervisors from other countries and 500 from the UN Secretariat in providing a level of international election supervision which is probably unprecedented in history. The supervisors will be stationed at

.../2

Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada