



news release

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER TO VISIT POLAND AND UKRAINE

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet will travel to Warsaw, March 29 and 30, and Kiev, March 31 and April 1.

"Canada is committed to helping Poland and Ukraine through the challenging transition to democracy and market economies. This trip will reinforce our special relationship with both countries," said Mr. Ouellet.

To underline the importance of co-operation in trade and investment, Mr. Ouellet will be accompanied by Canadian business leaders with interests in the region.

Mr. Ouellet noted that practical, hands-on Canadian technical assistance was giving Poland and Ukraine the tools to make change happen in agriculture and health care, improve environmental protection, and encourage private-sector development.

In Warsaw, Mr. Ouellet will get a first-hand look at Poland's remarkable success in turning its economy around under democratic leadership. In addition to his discussions with Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski, Mr. Ouellet will also meet President Lech Walesa and Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak.

In Kiev, Mr. Ouellet will hear a report from Canadian observers on the first round of the Ukrainian elections. In his meetings with President Leonid Kravchuk, Foreign Minister Anatolii Zlenko and Economy Minister Roman Shpek, Mr. Ouellet will stress Canada's support for Ukraine's reform efforts.

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