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SECRETARY OF STATE STEWART TO ATTEND PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE IN HONDURAS

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will participate in the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America, to be held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, October 24 and 25.

"I am pleased that Canada is participating in this conference. We have a strong and continuing interest in Central America's growth, the peace and reconciliation process, sustainable development, the fight against poverty and participation in the global economy," said Mr. Ouellet.

While in Tegucigalpa, Mrs. Stewart will meet with Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina and with the foreign ministers of each country attending the conference to discuss their expectations and goals for the upcoming Summit of the Americas to be held in Miami in December.

Following the Conference, Mrs. Stewart will travel to Nicaragua to continue discussions on the Summit with President Violeta Chamorro on October 26 and 27, and then to Jamaica for meetings with Prime Minister P. J. Patterson on October 28 and 29.

"In the weeks leading to the Summit, it is essential that Canada discuss with the leaders of Central America and the Caribbean what they hope to achieve at the Summit, and that they, in turn, understand Canada's goals and objectives," said Mrs. Stewart.

In all three countries, Mrs. Stewart plans also to meet with representatives of Canadian non-governmental organizations and to visit several development projects funded by the Canadian government.

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