

# News Release

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## SECRETARY OF STATE STEWART TO LEAD MISSION TO RWANDA AND BURUNDI

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will visit Rwanda and then head the Canadian delegation to the Conference on Refugees in Central Africa to be held in Bujumbura, Burundi, February 15-17.

Mrs. Stewart is the first high-level Canadian representative to travel to Central Africa since the tragic events of last spring. Her visit underscores the need for preventive diplomacy, as stated in the Government's recent foreign policy statement, to further peace and security in the region. Mrs. Stewart will report to Mr. Ouellet on the findings of her trip upon her return.

Mrs. Stewart begins her mission in Rwanda, where she will emphasize Canadian efforts to help the displaced peoples of that region to return home in safety. The Secretary of State will meet with the President of Rwanda, humanitarian aid workers and peacekeepers assigned to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda.

Mrs. Stewart then travels to Bujumbura for the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region jointly sponsored by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This conference will bring together heads of government from the region and foreign government representatives to address the plight of the over two million refugees in Burundi, Zaire and Tanzania.

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