



news release

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CANADIANS TO SERVE AS ELECTORAL OBSERVERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today detailed the series of measures Canada is taking to monitor and support South Africa's first multiracial elections, April 26-28.

"These elections mark a crucial step in the building of a post-apartheid system of government in South Africa. Canada has consistently advocated peaceful change in South Africa, and it is fitting that so many Canadians will be there to witness the voting process," said Mr. Ouellet.

Christine Stewart, Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa), will lead a bilateral team of 12 Canadian election observers. The team will arrive in South Africa on April 18, in time to observe the final week of the electoral campaign, as well as the actual voting.

"Canadians have supported the transition to democracy and a non-racial system of government in South Africa for many years now," said Mrs. Stewart. "I am leading this delegation of Canadians to reinforce the support of the Government and people of Canada for this election. We hope that our presence, along with that of other friends of South Africa, will contribute to a democratic electoral process."

Among the members of the observer team are Members of Parliament Jean Augustine, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Réginald Bélair, Senator Al Graham, Ovid L. Jackson, Peter Milliken, Maud Debieen and Svend J. Robinson.

In addition to the bilateral mission, 75 Canadians will act as observers for the UN Mission in South Africa. Five Canadians will also join the Commonwealth Observer Group. As well, there are nearly 60 Canadians involved in observer activities mounted by Canadian and South African non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Ouellet noted that Canada has contributed to the operations of South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission and to the

work of the Goldstone Commission, which is charged with the investigation of violence. Canada has also provided assistance to a Commonwealth team that is training electoral officials and the South African National Peacekeeping Force, and to a UN team monitoring violence in South Africa. Canada's contribution to the South African election process is approximately \$5 million.

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