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**MRS. LANDRY TO PARTICIPATE IN
PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR
FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT
MAURITIUS ISLAND, JULY 9 AND 10, 1991**

The Honourable Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and International Development and Minister responsible for La Francophonie, will participate this July 9 and 10 in a ministerial conference on Mauritius Island in preparation for the fourth Francophone Summit.

This important conference was convened in order to establish the agenda for the next Summit of Heads of State of Francophone Countries, scheduled for this coming November in Paris. Canada's attendance at the preliminary conference has three main objectives: to reinforce the political aspect of the Summit, to streamline the institutional mechanisms within La Francophonie and to set rules and principles that will make the co-operative process more efficient.

Prior to the conference, between June 29 and July 8, Minister Landry is planning a consultative tour of Europe and Africa that will take her successively to Senegal, France, Belgium and Gabon. The purpose of the tour will be to raise the awareness of Canada's partners concerning the Canadian objectives central to the concerns of the preparatory conference.

In the words of Mrs. Landry, "The importance of this consultation is tied in with the whole reflective process that has been going on for several months among all the partners in La Francophonie, its purpose being to hold the political ground gained in the most recent Summits, to consolidate their co-operative programs and to place the institution on a solid organizational footing."

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Among the personalities with whom Minister Landry will meet are President Diouf of Senegal, who is currently also serving as President of the Francophone Summits, Mrs. Catherine Tasca and Mrs. Edwige Avice, the French Ministers of Francophone Affairs and Co-operation, Mr. Valmy Féaux, Minister-President of the French Community of Belgium, and His Excellency Omar Bongo, President of Gabon.

Mrs. Landry also plans to take advantage of her visit to discuss both the international political and economic situation and bilateral relations between Canada and the countries visited.

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