

News Release

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OUELLET PAYS HOMAGE TO YITZHAK RABIN

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today issued the following statement:

"It is a tragedy beyond comprehension, that such a cowardly and senseless act should silence a man committed to the noble cause of peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Rabin's family and the people of Israel. May they bring comfort and solace to all who mourn.

"Mr. Rabin dedicated his life to serving his country. As a soldier, Yitzhak Rabin fought for Israel's survival. He witnessed the great suffering and pain that war brought to the people and nation of Israel and to its neighbours. As Prime Minister, Mr. Rabin recognized that negotiation, not war, was the only means of ensuring a future of peace and prosperity for all people in the Middle East. This became his goal, his mission.

"The world has lost a great leader. With great courage and dignity, Yitzhak Rabin made it possible for us to dream of the day when Israel will be at peace with all its neighbours. We cannot let the act of a single extremist rob us of all that Mr. Rabin accomplished and cherished. We must carry on his mission; it is our duty.

"Canada has stood with Israel and its partners in peace as they have tackled the difficult issues in their relations. Canada will continue to give its full and unequivocal support to the Middle East Peace Process and to ensuring a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. We will continue to support the leaders who follow in Mr. Rabin's footsteps. We will continue to provide assistance to the region, and we will continue to play an active role in the multilateral track of the peace process. This will be our memorial to Yitzhak Rabin.



"Only last week, I sat down with Foreign Minister, and now acting Prime Minister, Shimon Peres to discuss relations between our two countries. Like Yitzhak Rabin, Mr. Peres is a man of peace. And so, on behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to extend to Mr. Peres our support and encouragement in the difficult days ahead."

Minister Ouellet signed the condolence book at the Israeli Embassy earlier today.

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