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# news release

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## CANADA JOINS ANGOLAN PEACEKEEPING MISSION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Marcel Masse, announced today that in response to a request from the UN Secretary-General, Canada will be sending 15 officers as observers in the military component of the second phase of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II).

"This contribution demonstrates Canada's continuing support to UN peacekeeping as well as our commitment to national reconciliation and democratization in Angola," Mrs. McDougall said.

The mandate of UNAVEM II is to verify the ceasefire and demobilization arrangements agreed to by the Government of Angola and the opposition UNITA in the Angola Peace Accords signed in Lisbon May 31, which brought to an end 16 years of civil war in this Southern African country.

Canada will send to UNAVEM II one senior officer in the rank of colonel to be a UN Regional Commander and 14 majors and captains.

Mr. Masse commented, "The Canadian Forces have participated in other missions in Africa, such as the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia. This mission to Angola confirms our continued support for peace in the region and will add to our proven record in peacekeeping."

UNAVEM was originally created to supervise the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola under the terms of the December 22, 1988 agreement between Angola, Cuba and South Africa. UNAVEM II is being expanded from a small mission of 60 observers to a total strength of over 600, of which 350 will be military observers, 90 police, and the remainder civilians. It is expected to remain in Angola until the country's first national, multi-party elections are held in the fall of 1992.

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