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Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY, DR. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,
SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
669TH SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
May 31, 2007**

Canada joins others in very warmly welcoming the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Her Excellency, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, to the Permanent Council for the first time. We thank her for outlining the United States' vision for the OSCE, and for reminding us of how far we have all travelled together since the early days of the OSCE.

As close friends and neighbours, Canada and the United States share a special relationship and have many common interests, including at the OSCE.

As one of the Organization's two North American participating States, we place a high value on the unique contribution the OSCE makes to stability and security in the European space. The advancement of democracy, human rights and freedom in the greater Europe directly contributes to security on both sides of the Atlantic.

Our cooperation in all OSCE dimensions is comprehensive; in our strong support for the admirable work of field missions and Institutions; in our support for ODIHR's work on election monitoring, tolerance, human rights, gender equality and the rule of law; in our cooperative efforts in the Forum for Security Cooperation to promote UNSCR 1540 and non-proliferation; and in our support for anti-terrorism programs.

We wish to reaffirm our strong commitment to the CFE regime and echo Secretary Rice's strong support for the European security architecture. We call on our partners here to redouble efforts to resolve the frozen conflicts.

We would like to thank Secretary Rice for honouring us with her presence today, and look forward to continue working with the United States, our colleagues, Ambassador Finley and her delegation in Vienna, in strengthening the OSCE.