

Canada to Sign International Convention on Desertification

October 7, 1994, 94-39

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet will travel to Paris this week to sign, on behalf of Canada, the International Convention to Combat Desertification, and to hold discussions with French officials. The Convention, to be signed October 14, is a tangible result of a commitment by nations at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Among its major objectives is to help developing countries reduce land degradation in dryland areas, especially in Africa. "Canada is proud to be associated with this global effort to fight desertification," Mr. Ouellet said. "Canada has long supported development in Africa, so we know that continuing loss of fertile land translates into increased poverty and hunger in African nations."

**FINANCE**

Finance Minister to Address Commons Finance Committee

October 12, 1994, 94-091

Finance Minister Paul Martin will appear before the House of Commons Finance Committee on October 17 to outline the broad policy framework for the Government's agenda for economic growth and job creation, and again on October 18 to provide an update of Canada's economic and fiscal situation. The presentations will be the basis for the pre-budget consultation process leading to the 1995 budget. The Minister will begin by meeting with his provincial and territorial counterparts in Toronto, October 13 and 14, to discuss the economic and fiscal situation prior to the federal update. "We want the consultations to engage Canadians in a national dialogue on what the 1995 budget should contain, and, in particular, how we should meet our deficit targets. The Government wants to hear every reasonable suggestion from Canadians," Mr. Martin said.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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| October 24, 1994:     | Launch of United Nations 50th Anniversary Commemoration Activities              |
| October 27, 1994:     | G-7 meeting on Ukraine (Winnipeg, Canada)                                       |
| November 11-12, 1994: | APEC Ministerial Meeting (Jakarta, Indonesia)                                   |
| December 5-6, 1994:   | Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe Summit<br>(Budapest, Hungary) |
| December 9-10, 1994:  | Hemispheric Summit (Miami, Florida)   |

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