

On behalf of Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs André Ouellet, Mr. MacLaren signed with Mr. Kolodko a Memorandum of Understanding setting up the Canada-Poland Entrepreneurs Fund (CPEF).

The CPEF is a seven-year, \$32-million fund, financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and designed to provide financial and technical support to Poland's rapidly growing small and medium-sized enterprises. It will support firms through loans, equity investments and advice, and it will be administered by a Polish foundation in partnership with a Polish bank. It is to begin operations on January 1, 1996. The CPEF will be the cornerstone of the Canadian Technical Co-operation Program in Poland.

Mr. MacLaren also announced two additional technical assistance projects in Poland:

- Canada will contribute about \$600,000 to a project managed by the Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS). CCRS will assist the Polish Centre for Remote Sensing in developing a system that, among other things, will predict crop production for the Polish Ministry of Agriculture.
- The International Aviation Management Training Institute will provide advice and training to the Polish aviation industry in developing and implementing new policies and standards, and in streamlining operations. Canada will contribute about \$1 million to this project. Polish participants include the Polish Civil Aviation Authority, Polish State Airports, and Lot Airlines.

Poland is Canada's largest market in Central Europe. In 1994, two-way trade reached \$160 million. With the recent increase in the number of Canadian investors to Poland, Canada now ranks as the sixth-largest foreign investor in terms of number of investors and eleventh in terms of cumulative value (\$140 million) of Canadian investment. With a population of 40 million, growing income levels and a rapidly expanding private sector, Poland offers numerous trade and investment opportunities in areas of Canadian expertise.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874