

International

Canada joins Organisation of American States

Canada has formally announced that it is joining the Organisation of American States (OAS). In what he called a 'new departure in our relations with Latin America', Prime Minister Brian Mulroney made the announcement at a recent meeting of political leaders from North, South and Central America and the Caribbean. However, Canada will not sign the Organisation's collective security agreement, the Rio Treaty, because, Mr Mulroney said, the treaty is 'inconsistent with our tradition and objectives'.

Canada calls for large cuts in global tariffs

Canada has tabled in Geneva a proposal for the reduction of tariffs and non-tariff barriers in Multilateral Trade Negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). According to Canadian International Trade Minister John Crosbie, the proposal builds on the consensus reached in Montreal a year ago during the mid-term review of the Uruguay Round, calling for a one-third reduction in global tariffs. 'We're proposing to achieve that goal through a combination of both a tariff formula and bilateral "request and offer" negotiations'.

Business leaders join PM in Moscow visit

More than 200 Canadian business leaders recently joined Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on a six-day visit to the Soviet Union. 'Politicians can only talk about *perestroika*, but businessmen can help bring it about,' Mr Mulroney said, speaking at a lunch held to mark the founding of the Canada-USSR Business Council. The new business council is headed by Albert Reichmann, chairman of Olympia and York Developments Ltd of Toronto. Olympia and York is planning to build a multi-storey office, hotel and residential complex in the centre of Moscow; it would be the tallest building in the city. After a 4½ hour meeting with President

Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr Mulroney said that Canadian investments like Olympia and York's were a vote of confidence in the success of the Soviet leader's reform programme.

Canada to host NATO-Warsaw Pact conference

Canada is to host the 'open skies' conference which NATO and Warsaw Pact countries plan to hold to discuss the possibility of an agreement respecting overflights of each other's territories by unarmed surveillance aircraft. The meeting will bring together foreign ministers of the 23 NATO and Warsaw Treaty countries in Ottawa from February 12-18, 1990. Ministers of the participating countries will be in attendance for the first three days of the conference

Business

Canadian firm to contribute to Jubilee costs

Olympia and York Developments Ltd of Toronto has agreed to pay the lion's share of a £400 million, private sector contribution towards the cost of constructing an extension to the Jubilee underground line in London. The extension will improve transportation links to Olympia and York's Canary Wharf office development in London's Docklands.

High-speed communications from Northern Telecom

Ontario-based Northern Telecom has unveiled a new line of fibre-optic switching and transmission products called The Fibre-World Family, which it says will change the way individuals and businesses communicate. The new products will allow a '3000-fold increase in both the switching and transmission speeds of data, image and voice communications', the company says.

Politics

NDP chooses new leader

Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP) has elected its first new leader in 14 years; she is Audrey McLaughlin, the first woman to

become leader of a major Canadian political party. Ms McLaughlin defeated her main rival, former British Columbia Premier David Barrett, on the fourth ballot at the NDP leadership convention in December. She took 55 per cent of the votes cast. Ms McLaughlin, MP for Yukon, is a former social worker with two years' experience in federal politics.

Technology

Doctors now have their own satellite TV channel.

Canadian doctors, nurses and other medical professionals are able to tune into educational programming on their own television channel now that Canada's first national hospital satellite network has begun broadcasting. So far, 50 hospitals have signed on to become part of the Healthsat Network, but the number is expected to rise quickly to 150. Programmes deal with such topics as advances in diagnosis and treatment, surgical techniques and pharmacology.

Environment

More funds for Great Lakes cleanup

The Canadian government has committed a further £60 million to its Great Lakes cleanup programme. The spending – to be spread over the next five years – fulfills a promise made by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney during the last election campaign and during the Throne Speech opening Parliament.

Cultural

London premiere for Michel Tremblay play

Michel Tremblay's play, *The Real World*, will have its London premiere at the Soho Poly Theatre in London on February 14. The play – translated by Lisa Forrell and Allison Kean, and produced by Sandpiper Production – will run until March 17.

Trade Shows

During the next few months, many Canadian companies will be exhibiting at trade shows and exhibitions in the UK.

Oceanology International 90 Brighton, March 6-9

Canadian companies have regularly exhibited at this show. About six of them are expected to be co-located with the Canadian stand, displaying a range of oceanology products including systems for mapping coasts and tracking fish, as well as air-borne scanning systems for producing hydrographic charts.

An eight-member ocean technology mission from Canada is also being organised to visit the UK at the time of Oceanology International.

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Marketplace 90 Lord's Conference Centre London, March 15-16

This event is designed to bring together companies that are leaders in the advanced technology industries of informatics and electronics. It has attracted over 40 Canadian companies and some 250-300 UK companies are expected to attend.

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Communications 90 National Exhibition Centre Birmingham, April 24-26

This international trade fair will cover voice and data communications equipment and services, broadcasting, radio, satellite, cable and information technology. About twelve Canadian companies are expected to share the stand.

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British Electronics Week Olympia, London, April 24-26

BEW is one of the largest annual electronics shows in Europe. It is devoted to components, sub-systems, production equipment – in fact, just about everything required by the electronics manufacturer.

The Canadian information booth will showcase Canadian capabilities in the electronics sector and attract investment.

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