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INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM REVIEW

Since 1997, more than 1,000 young Canadians have gained on-the-job experience in the areas of foreign affairs and international development under the government's Youth International Internship Program. A recent review of the program shows that 31% of the internships were in Europe, 16% in Asia, 15% in the Middle East, 14% in the United States, 12% in Canada, and 12% in other parts of the world. Approximately 78% of the interns found work after completing their internships.

The program is delivered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the Canadian International Development Agency, Environment Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, Industry Canada and Canadian Heritage.

To find out more about the Youth International Internship Program, please call 1-800-559-2888, or (613) 944-2415 from the National Capital Region. Information is also available on DFAIT's Youth Web site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/culture/youth/menu.htm

EAST TIMOR

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan met with East Timor activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. José Ramos-Horta in November to discuss the situation in East Timor. After the meeting, Mr. Axworthy expressed strong Canadian support for the UN talks on East Timor's future and urged "all parties to reach a lasting political resolution." He added that Canada believes "the active participation of the East Timorese themselves is essential to the successful negotiation of such a resolution."

Earlier in 1998, during a visit to Indonesia, Mr. Chan had discussed the East Timor situation and the imprisonment of East Timorese leader Xanana Gusmao with President Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie and Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas. ●

In Our NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will focus on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which is celebrating its 50th birthday in April 1999. Stories will include an overview of Canada's action within the Alliance, opportunities and challenges for the future, and an essay on the

NATO of the 21 century. Also in our next issue: the entry into legal force of the international Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and on their Destruction, known as the Ottawa Convention. ●

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The **Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Web site** receives more than

4.5 million visits each month. An average of **50,000 documents** are viewed each day.

Forty percent of our visitors are from the **United States**, **26%** are from **Canada**, and **34%** are from other **countries**.

» **Canada's** long-standing **mission in London** obtained **full diplomatic status in 1926**. Its next **official diplomatic mission** abroad was opened in **Washington in 1927**, followed by **Paris in 1928**, and **Tokyo in 1929**.

A survey conducted by Goldfarb Consultants in 1998 indicates that **79% of Canadians** say they are familiar with the **United Nations** and that **9 Canadians out of 10** want **Canada** to play a **larger role in it**.

The first **foreign consulate** to be established in Canada was the **Consulate of the United States in 1833 in Halifax**. The consulate was opened to deal with maritime transportation problems on the east coast and to help solve trade problems between the Atlantic provinces and the New England states. **In 1850**, several **European countries** began opening **consulates in Montréal** and in other major **Canadian cities**.

Canada's **Department of External Affairs** was **established in 1909**. At that time, the Department was under the responsibility of the Secretary of State. From 1912 until 1946, when it became a **full-fledged government department**, the portfolio was under the authority of the **Prime Minister**.

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CETTE PUBLICATION EST
ÉGALEMENT DISPONIBLE EN
FRANÇAIS
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Canada World View is published in both English and French under the direction of:

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