

I am pleased to announce today that Canada, the United States and Mexico concluded last night two important agreements that will strengthen the co-operation among our three countries. These agreements will enhance the protection of the North American environment and contribute to the maintenance and improvement of working conditions in the North American workplace. All three partners recognized that no country can afford to build its industrial base on a foundation of polluting factories, in a short-sighted attempt to get a quick competitive advantage over others. Such behaviour is in nobody's interest. Hurting the environment and wasting resources hurts the economy and shackles future growth. We agreed early on that, to be effective, these agreements had to contain measures to ensure enforcement of our environmental and labour laws. They contain such measures. But let me make clear, here and now: under these agreements, Canada will never be subject to trade sanctions. When governments do not enforce their laws, they would pay fines into a fund to improve environmental and labour conditions. Canadian courts would be responsible for imposing any penalties levied against Canada. Mexico and the United States chose a different form of penalty. Their failure to enforce their laws subjects them to a suspension of NAFTA benefits, including a duty or tariff. In other words, a trade sanction. We negotiated the NAFTA to knock down trade barriers. Under this agreement there will be no new trade barriers – barriers that, we believed, would have handed a weapon to protectionist interests to undermine the benefits of free trade.

From an address by the Honourable Tom Hockin, Minister for International Trade, on the Successful Conclusion of the Negotiations for the North American Agreements on Labour and Environmental Co-operation, (Ottawa, Ontario, August 13, 1993, No. 93/52)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- September 5-13, 1993: United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo)
- September 23-24, 1993: Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Senior Official Meeting (Honolulu)
- September 28-30, 1993: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Annual Meeting (Tokyo)
- October 16-18, 1993: La Francophonie Summit (Mauritius)
- October 21-25, 1993: Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (Cyprus)
- November 18-19, 1993: 5th Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Ministerial Meeting (Seattle)
- November 30-December 1, 1993: Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe Council of Ministers Meeting (Rome)
- December 2-3, 1993: NATO North Atlantic Council and North Atlantic Co-operation Council Meetings (Brussels)

**Note: As a cost-saving measure, "This Week in Trade and Foreign Policy" was not published last week, since there were too few items issued. Please be advised that we will continue to follow this practice in the future, when warranted.*

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