

News Release

May 18, 1995

No. 92

MACLAREN TRAVELS TO WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE TO FOSTER TRADE AND INVESTMENT TIES

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, will travel to Europe May 22 to June 1 to discuss trade and investment liberalization between North America and Europe and to foster stronger trade and investment ties with Western and Central European countries. He will be accompanied by more than 30 Canadian business representatives on the Central European leg of the trip.

Mr. MacLaren will give a major speech to the Royal Institute for International Affairs in London on proposals for a transatlantic trade pact; head the Canadian delegation to the annual meeting of ministers of member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris; hold talks with ministers in Warsaw, Budapest, Prague, and Bonn; meet with leading German industrialists and speak to prominent business groups in Dusseldorf and Stuttgart; and call on the new Director General of the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

"Prime Minister Chrétien's invitation to the European Union last December to consider a free trade pact with North America is gaining increasing international attention," said Mr. MacLaren. "I plan to build on this interest during my trip. Clearly, transatlantic trade and investment liberalization would be beneficial for Europe and North America and would provide an impetus for further global trade liberalization."

While in Central Europe, a number of companies accompanying the Minister are expected to announce business deals. Similarly, EDC (Export Development Corporation) is expected to sign co-operation agreements to enhance its finance and insurance programs in support of Canadian exports.

"Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic are among the most successful economies in the region. I am very pleased that many