

News Release

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OUELLET TO TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA AND BRUNEI

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet will travel to Australia and Brunei from July 25 to August 3.

In Australia, Mr. Ouellet will hold talks with the Australian Foreign Minister, Senator Gareth Evans. He will also give the keynote address to participants of the Canada-Australia Policy Conference on "Co-operation in the Asia-Pacific Region" to mark the centenary of bilateral relations.

Mr. Ouellet will then travel to Brunei where he will lead the Canadian delegation at meetings with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Foreign ministers of the seven ASEAN countries – including Viet Nam, which becomes a member of ASEAN at the end of July – will meet with their seven dialogue partners (Canada, Australia, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, the United States and the European Union) for the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference, where they will discuss regional and international issues of common concern. Canada has been an ASEAN dialogue partner since 1977.

ASEAN foreign ministers and their dialogue partners will also meet with the foreign ministers of China, Russia, Laos, Papua-New Guinea and Cambodia for the second annual ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Discussions at the ARF will focus on regional security matters. Ministers will review reports from three meetings of ARF officials held over the past year, including the report of the March 1995 seminar entitled "Peacekeeping: Challenges and Opportunities for the ARF." The seminar, held in Brunei, was jointly organized by the governments of Canada and Brunei and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies of Malaysia.

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