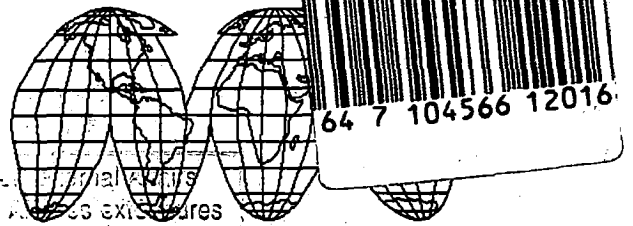


**This Week Le commerce et
in Trade and la politique étrangère
Foreign Policy cette semaine**

December 24, 1993 - January 5, 1994



RELEASES:

MacLaren Visits Mexico and Chile, January 3-7, 1994

December 31, 1993, No. 239

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, will visit Mexico and Chile from January 3 to 7. He will discuss with Mexico the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and, with Chile, closer trade ties, including Chile's possible accession to the NAFTA. "Canada-Mexico trade and investment have grown significantly in recent years. The partnership between our two countries can make a significant contribution to enhancing the prosperity, competitiveness and political stability of the Hemisphere," Mr. MacLaren said.

Secretary of State Stewart to Visit Guyana, Bolivia and Peru

December 30, 1993, No. 238

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will visit Guyana, Bolivia and Peru, January 2 to 12, 1994. "I am returning to a part of the world, which I know well from personal experience," Mrs. Stewart said. "Like many Canadians, I believe that Canada can play a constructive role in promoting democracy and economic development in the region to our mutual benefit."

Government of Canada Proclaims Legislation Implementing the NAFTA

December 30, 1993, No. 237

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced that the Government of Canada has proclaimed the legislation to implement the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and is exchanging written notifications with Mexico and the United States to bring the NAFTA into force. The NAFTA will enter into force on January 1, 1994. The North American Agreement on Labour Co-operation and the North American Agreement on Environmental Co-operation also will come into force on the same day.

Secretary of State Chan to Visit Hong Kong, China, Thailand and Japan

December 29, 1993, No. 236

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that Secretary of State, Asia-Pacific, Raymond Chan will travel to Hong Kong, China and Thailand, January 3 to 12. As the result of an agreement reached at the federal-provincial first minister's meeting in Ottawa, December 21, Mr. Chan will also visit Japan with Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells January 13 and 14. "The fact that I will be in Tokyo with Premier Wells underscores the potential for expanded ties between this region and all parts of Canada," Mr. Chan said.

Ouellet Signs Co-Location Memorandum of Understanding with Australia

December 29, 1993, No. 235

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and the High Commissioner for Australia, His Excellency Francis Conynghame Murray, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on co-location. Both governments will benefit from the arrangement, which provides diplomatic representation at less cost to the taxpayer by sharing premises in missions abroad. "The co-location arrangement reflects a long history of co-operation between Canada and Australia, including the provision of consular and communications services for each other in emergency situations. It's an excellent example of governments working together to reduce the costs of diplomatic representation," said Mr. Ouellet.

Canada Condemns Intransigence of Haiti's Military Command

December 22, 1993, No. 234

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet condemned the refusal by Haitian military leader Lieutenant-General Cédras to meet a senior military/civilian delegation from Canada, France, the United States and Venezuela. Canada was represented by Rear Admiral Kenneth J. Summers and Canada's Chargé d'affaires in Haiti, Louis Robert Daigle. "The General's refusal to meet the mission demonstrates once again that the Haitian military is clearly responsible for the continuation of the Haitian crisis. It is the military that reneged on commitments made under the Governors Island Agreement and they must take the blame for the situation that has led to the imposition of sanctions," Mr. Ouellet said.

STATEMENTS:

It is a pleasure to be here in Montreal to announce the launch of the Agricultural Credit Unions Project in Russia, which will be undertaken by the Société de développement international Desjardins. This project represents a significant share of the Canadian assistance program in the Russian Federation. Reform of the agricultural sector is the basis for the whole reform effort in Russia. We know that hungry people are not interested in reform, and that Russian agriculture is emerging from several decades of state control and