

The ambassador to Canada of the European Union was called in to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to receive a strong protest from the Government of Canada over the EU's reaction to the latest allegations in the Canada-EU fishing dispute. Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Gordon Smith told Ambassador John Beck that Canada deplores the EU's hasty reaction on the basis of allegations by Spanish fishing captains operating in the disputed area off Newfoundland. Mr. Smith outlined the events at sea last night, stressing that Canadian patrol vessels at no time attempted to board or cut the nets of the Spanish trawlers, contrary to the allegations of the Spanish captains. He noted that Canada has been exercising extreme restraint in the disputed zone as talks with the EU have progressed. The Canadian vessels were engaged in routine identification of fishing vessels operating in their patrol area. He told Ambassador Beck that Canada regrets, at this sensitive time in discussions aimed at settling the fishing dispute, that the EU issued public statements condemning Canada without full consideration of the facts in the case. The EU reaction was particularly inappropriate given the advanced state of the process in Brussels.

STATEMENTS

The idea of a Canadian study on rapid intervention arose last year out of the terrible tragedy in Rwanda. I have seen nothing since that time that could make me doubt the necessity of such a study. On the contrary. Outbreaks of ethnic, religious and nationalistic antagonism are the root causes of much conflict throughout the world. Although they may be internal conflicts, they can in many cases become real threats to international peace and security. Regardless of its nature or scope, we cannot disregard the human and humanitarian dimension of war.... It is clear that much work needs to be done in the field of preventive diplomacy. This is one of the main proposals I made to the General Assembly in New York last September. We must work to attack the root causes of conflict before they explode. Indeed, defining a clear mandate for peacekeeping forces involves understanding the nature of conflict. The UN could do a better job if it could respond more coherently to early warning signs by effectively deploying the instruments at its disposal.... A rapid-reaction capability must also exist as a part of a series of processes within the UN and regional organizations. As I said earlier, it will fail if it exists in isolation. There must, above all, be a capacity to re-build societies in a post-conflict phase if rapid-reaction is going to work. And there must be clear links between what a rapid-reaction capability can do in the short run, and what other parts of the UN system must do as they take over from a rapid-reaction group in response to crisis.... One of our concerns is providing the Security Council with timely military advice.... On the "strategic level" of the UN system, we also need more coherent crisis management structures.... We also need to do more work with regional organizations, at all three levels of actions I mentioned - preventive diplomacy, rapid reaction and peace building.... We should also be exploring opportunities for regional peacekeeping training centres, regional stocks of equipment and possibly operational headquarters at a regional level.... A UN standing force remains a key goal for many of us.... Another key point is the need for coherence in the UN's overall approach to crisis. This means workable arrangements among the humanitarian organizations, the non-governmental community and the UN, towards common objectives.... A rapid-reaction capability is not the answer to every problem of instability and conflict. But it is one important instrument. In this, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, we should aim high. We must give the UN the tools it requires to do its job well into the next century.

Notes for an Address by the Honourable André Ouellet, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the International Conference on Improving the UN's Rapid Reaction Capability, Montebello, Québec, April 8, 1995, 95/24

CIDA:

Sydney Firm Awarded Contract in India

April 11, 1995, 95-06

Russel MacLellan, M.P. for Cape Breton-the Sydneys, announced on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet that Sydney Steel Corporation has secured a contract with the Railway Board of India for the sale of 200 000 metric tons of steel rail, valued at \$18.5 million. The contract is part of the India-Canada Environment Facility Project which establishes a counterpart fund from proceeds of the sale of Canadian goods. "The Government is pleased to announce this contract for Sydney Steel Corporation," Mr. MacLellan said. "This is an example of how development aid can bring benefits to Canada as well as the recipient country."

FINANCE:

Our [government's] spending reductions are without modern Canadian precedent. We have assured that our targets will be met. We have taken steps now that guarantee we will go well beyond them in the future. But our efforts are not over. Reform will go on. New targets will be set. And we will not let up. Together with the extraordinary health of the Canadian economy, these actions, we believe, make Canada once again one of the best places in the world to invest. For this reason, the Government of Canada will focus its resources strategically on areas where it has a true comparative advantage.... In the Pacific, as in the Western hemisphere, Canada sees the purpose of liberalized trade as being about bringing down walls between partners inside - not putting up walls to competitors outside.... Looking to the future, whether on investment, or trade, or the expansion of regional co-operation throughout the Pacific, Canada looks to Japan as a partner for progress. One of our goals is to build on the dramatic breakthrough of last year - when Asia-Pacific leaders defined the predictions - and agreed to aim for free trade across our region by the year 2020 - building a new bridge across the Pacific.

Notes for an Address by the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of Finance, before the Keideanren Business Association and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Tokyo, Japan, April 10, 1995,

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 17-May 12:	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference (New York)
May 4-6:	Quadrilateral Trade Ministers Meeting (Whistler, British Columbia)
June 15-17:	G-7 Summit (Halifax, Nova Scotia)