

However, the NAFTA will go ahead in Canada only if approved by legislatures in the other two countries in time for implementation on January 1, 1994.

The new Prime Minister, who during the transition had described her agenda as "work, work, work," participated in Canada's National Day celebrations on July 1 before flying to Tokyo to attend the July 7-9 Economic Summit.

The Tokyo Summit marked Prime Minister Campbell's first meeting with President Bill Clinton and other heads of government in the G-7 Summit group. In Tokyo, she also met Russian President Boris Yeltsin and European Community representative Jacques Delors.

Prime Minister Campbell, who is the same age as President Clinton, spoke of a new "politics of inclusion" during her party's leadership campaign and pledged to "do politics differently" in Canada.

Campbell is noted for her quick turn of phrase. Named Defence minister in January, she said: "Watch out, I've got tanks!" When the British tabloid press, commenting on a picture of her posing bare-shouldered behind judicial robes, suggested that she was "the Madonna" of Canadian politics, Campbell quipped that "the difference between me and Madonna is the difference between a strapless evening gown and a gownless evening strap."

First elected from the riding of Vancouver Centre in the 1988 "free trade election," Campbell has been a strong supporter of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, but also a proponent of stronger trade links between Canada and Pacific Rim nations.

A strong advocate of fiscal restraint, Campbell has undertaken to eliminate the deficit and balance the federal budget within five years.

"The target has been clearly stated by the Prime Minister," Finance minister Loiselle said after the swearing-in, "to bring the deficit to zero within five years."

First brought into the cabinet as junior Minister of Indian Affairs in 1989, Campbell was soon promoted to the senior Justice portfolio in 1990, where she quickly left her mark with major legislation on such sensitive social issues as gun control, family violence, child pornography, rape and abortion.

The first woman to occupy the Justice portfolio, she also became the first woman named Minister of National Defence from January of 1993, and the only woman Defence minister in the NATO alliance.

A graduate of the University of British Columbia law faculty, Campbell first became politically active as chairman of the Vancouver School Board in 1983,

and was elected to the provincial legislature in 1986.

Over the summer hiatus, Prime Minister Campbell must decide whether to recall Parliament as scheduled on September 20 to present her program, or to call an election.

In the House of Commons on June 16, her first day in the House as Conservative leader and Mulroney's last as Prime Minister, Campbell pointedly said that she had won the right to sit in the Prime Minister's historic front bench chair in the Commons by virtue of winning the confidence of her party. But she added: "I really look forward to the opportunity to take that historic seat as Prime Minister of Canada by virtue of the support given to me and my party by the people of Canada."

Canadian election campaigns last seven weeks, and normally include televised debates in English and French among the leaders of recognized parties in the House of Commons.

Prime Minister Campbell's principal opponents are Opposition Leader Jean Chrétien, who heads the Liberal Party, and Yukon MP Audrey McLaughlin, leader of the New Democratic Party.

Chrétien, 59, was elected leader of his party in June of 1990, succeeding John Turner. Chrétien first entered the cabinet in 1967 in the government of Lester Pearson, and occupied a number of senior portfolios in successive governments under Pierre Trudeau from 1968 to 1984, including Justice, Treasury Board and Finance. He also served briefly as External Affairs minister in Turner's government before the 1984 election. Chrétien has said if the Liberals come to power in the next election they will seek to renegotiate some of the terms of the NAFTA.

McLaughlin, 56, was first elected from the Yukon in a 1987 by-election, and succeeded Ed Broadbent as NDP leader in December of 1989, becoming the first woman to lead a national party in Canada. She has said an NDP government would not implement the NAFTA.

Other parties with representation in the House of Commons contesting the election are the western-based Reform Party led by Preston Manning, 51, and the separatist Bloc Québécois, led by onetime Mulroney cabinet minister Lucien Bouchard, 55. Both regional parties have at times placed strongly in the polls but more recent polls suggest their support is waning and that the election will be competitive among the three recognized parties in the House.

All figures are in Canadian dollars.
The official noon exchange rate on
June 30 was US\$1 = C\$1.2823.

Quebec Eases Language Law

The Quebec National Assembly passed legislation in June that ends a 16-year-old ban on languages other than French on commercial signs.

Bill 86 revises the French Language Charter, Bill 101, to allow bilingual signs outside commercial establishments as long as French is "markedly predominant." It also authorizes English immersion classes in French schools, provides for expanded exceptions to the regulation requiring immigrants to send their children to French schools and abolishes the commission responsible for monitoring compliance with the language charter (sometimes referred to in the media as the "language police").

The Quebec government has released the first of a series of draft regulations interpreting the law, which are expected to take effect in October. They specify that the space given to French and the French letters themselves must be twice as big as those allotted to any other language, and that other characteristics, such as design or colour, must not diminish the impact of the French. Publicly-owned corporations, such as Hydro-Québec, will be prohibited from using any language other than French on billboards or public transportation systems. As an aid to tourists, bilingual signs will be allowed at government-run attractions such as museums, gardens and zoos, and English road signs will be permitted within 15 kilometres (9 miles) of a point of entry into Quebec.

A recent poll by the Centre de recherches d'opinion publique (CROP) for *La Presse* of Montreal found that three out of four Quebecers favour bilingual commercial signs.

Canadian Peacekeepers Leave Cyprus

Canada formally ended its longest-running UN peacekeeping mission, in Cyprus, on June 16. The 514-member Canadian contingent transferred control over its section of the buffer zone dividing the island between Greek and Turkish Cypriots to British and Austrian troops.

Since 1964, more than 35,000 Canadian soldiers have served in Cyprus, and 28 have died there.

Joe Clark, recently Canada's Constitutional Affairs minister and Prime Minister in 1979, has been named special UN envoy charged with developing a federal structure for Cyprus, which has been divided since the 1974 civil war.