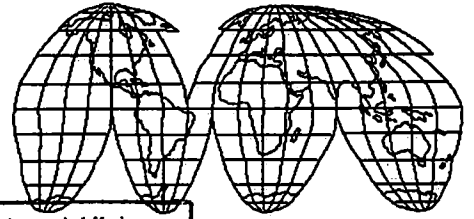


This Volume
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March 9-15, 1995
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**Le commerce et
la politique étrangère
cette semaine**



March 9-15, 1995

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Foreign Policy Communications Division (BCF)

Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures

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MacLaren Announces Trade Talks with Australia

March 14, 1995, no. 50

Following his discussions with Australia's Minister for Trade, Senator Bob McMullan, the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced that Canada and Australia would begin negotiation of a bilateral trade and investment agreement. "As we embark on a second century of trade relations, it is a good time to take a fresh look at our relationship," Mr. MacLaren said. "As old Commonwealth friends and APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum) partners, Canada and Australia have much to gain by focussing efforts on facilitating trade and investment development initiatives of mutual benefit in their respective regions."

Canada Observes Commonwealth Day

March 13, 1995, no. 49

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet issued the following statement to mark Commonwealth Day, March 13: Canadians join the citizens of the other 50 Commonwealth countries in celebrating Commonwealth Day. This includes about one third of the world's population. The theme for Commonwealth Day 1995 is **Our Global Neighbourhood - Working together for tolerance and understanding**. Through communication and co-operation, Commonwealth countries have worked toward promoting world peace and understanding. The highlight for this year is the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand, to take place in November.

**Ouellet Disappointed in European Union Stance
on Turbot Conservation**

March 9, 1995, no. 48

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet expressed disappointment that the European Union's stance on the overfishing of Greenland halibut (turbot) by Spanish fishing vessels has forced Canada to take enforcement measures. "Excessive fishing of turbot by the Spanish fishing fleet is putting more and more pressure on this fragile stock every day. Canada had no other choice but to take action at sea to put a stop to this practice," said Mr. Ouellet. The arrest of a Spanish vessel should leave no doubt that Canada will do whatever is necessary to protect turbot, the last remaining commercial groundfish stock on the Grand Banks. Mr. Ouellet noted, however, that "Canada remains prepared to hold talks to find a solution to the present impasse."

**Canada Participates in the First Meeting of the Korean Peninsula
Energy Development Organization**

March 9, 1995, no. 47

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that Canada took part in the preliminary conference of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), held in New York from March 7 to 9. "Canada will become a member of KEDO," said Mr. Ouellet. "The consortium will monitor the transformation of the energy sector in North Korea, following a procedure that will guarantee North Korean compliance with its non-proliferation obligations. Participation in KEDO will enhance our special partnership with South Korea." South Korea, Japan and the United States are the main members of this organization.

DEFENCE

Fewer Generals to Lead a Leaner Canadian Forces

March 2, 1995, no. 95.009

Keeping his commitment to provide Canada with a streamlined armed forces, the Honourable David Collenette has announced this year's senior military promotions and appointments. "The senior officers - generals and colonels - are significantly fewer in number this year," said Defence Minister Collenette. "The men and women of the Canadian Forces, along with all Canadians, saw the Department of National Defence play its part in this week's federal budget."...Measures announced in the defence department's 1994 White Paper and confirmed in the 1995 federal budget, will result in a further reduction in size of National Defence Headquarters and other headquarters by at least one third, including the total elimination of an entire level of command.