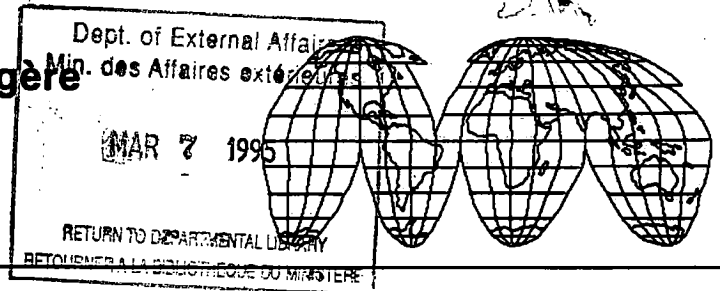


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**Le commerce et
la politique étrangère
cette semaine**

February 23-March 1, 1995



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

(disponible en français)

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE:
PRESS RELEASES:**

Trade Programs to Focus on Smaller Businesses

March 1, 1995, no. 39

Smaller businesses will benefit as a result of a number of improvements to the Government's international business development programs announced by International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren. The changes respond to some of the recommendations made in the final report of the International Business Development Review (IBDR), released last October by a private-sector steering committee. The committee examined the Government's international business development programs in light of increasing global competitiveness and current fiscal restraints. "These modifications will enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of our programs and will focus the government's support on smaller businesses, where it is most needed," Mr. MacLaren said. "They will also ensure that our trade programs are in line with Canada's fiscal realities."

Official Visit to Canada by NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes

February 28, 1995, no. 38

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Willy Claes, will pay an official visit to Canada from March 1 to 3. This will be Mr. Claes' first official visit to Canada since his appointment as Secretary-General of NATO in September 1994. "We are very pleased to receive Mr. Claes in Canada. This will be an opportunity to reaffirm Canada's staunch commitment to NATO and to discuss with Mr. Claes the evolution of the Alliance in light of the changes that have occurred in Europe," Mr. Ouellet said.

**MacLaren Holds Trade and Economic Talks in Visit to Japan,
Australia and New Zealand**

February 24, 1995, no. 37

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, will promote stronger trade and investment partnerships with Japan, Australia and New Zealand when he visits the three countries from February 26 to March 17, 1995. In Japan, Mr. MacLaren will discuss the agenda for the next Quadrilateral Ministers Meeting which he will chair in Canada in May and he will review plans for the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) leaders meeting to be held in Osaka in November. APEC and its future development will also be prominent on Mr. MacLaren's agenda for his visit to Australia and New Zealand.

Bolivian Foreign Minister to Visit Canada

February 23, 1995, no. 36

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced the visit of the Minister of External Relations and Religion of Bolivia, Dr. Antonio Aranibar Quiroga, to Ottawa and Toronto February 27 to March 1, 1995. "Dr. Aranibar's visit will provide an opportunity to consolidate political relations at a time when Bolivia is preparing to take over the presidency of the Rio Group in 1996," said Mr. Ouellet. While in Ottawa, Dr. Aranibar will meet with Christine Stewart, Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa), as well as Huguette Labelle, President of the Canadian International Development Agency, and Keith Bezanson, President of the International Development Research Council.

**Canada Welcomes the New Framework for Agreement Concerning
Northern Ireland**

February 23, 1995, no. 35

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet welcomed the *New Framework for Agreement concerning Northern Ireland*, issued in Belfast by Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom and Prime Minister John Bruton of Ireland. Mr. Ouellet also welcomed *A Framework for Accountable Government in Northern Ireland* released concurrently in London. "The New Framework for Agreement is far-reaching and even-handed in its proposals. I hope that all of the parties that have a direct stake in Northern Ireland's future will display the same courage and commitment to peace that the British and Irish governments have shown, and seize this opportunity for all inclusive negotiations," Mr. Ouellet said.