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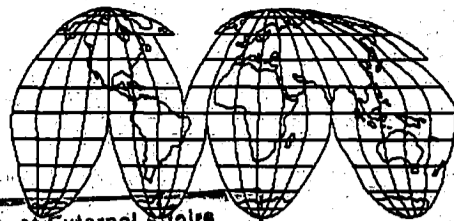
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Le commerce et la politique étrangère cette semaine

September 22-28, 1994

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

Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures

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Quellet Announces Visit of Douglas Hurd

September 23 1994, no. 187

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for the United Kingdom, will visit Ottawa on September 29-30. "Canada and the United Kingdom have long been committed to a strong and dynamic relationship. Our unique bilateral links have served to enhance transatlantic ties during the rapid changes of recent years, and I look forward to Mr. Hurd's visit," said Mr. Ouellet.

Canada to Maintain Peacekeepers in Former Yugoslavia

September 23, 1994, no. 186

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and National Defence Minister David Collenette announced that Canada will renew for another six months its present contribution to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia. "Canada continues to play a meaningful role in the Balkans. Our contribution to the UN peacekeeping effort has indeed been significant — some would even say disproportionately large given the size of our armed forces. Our decision to maintain our current contribution underlines our commitment to peace in the region, to the United Nations and to our UNPROFOR allies," said Mr. Ouellet.

Quellet to Attend United Nations National Assembly

September 22, 1994, no. 185

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that he will deliver Canada's speech to the 49th United Nations General Assembly on September 29. "The UN is getting ready to celebrate its 50th anniversary and this is the time to revitalize the organization. This session of the General Assembly is an opportunity for Canada to show our commitment to the UN, but also to make some concrete suggestions for reform," said Mr. Ouellet. While at the United Nations, Mr. Ouellet will hold meetings with a number of his counterparts from all regions of the world. Mr. Ouellet will meet United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, as well as the Foreign Ministers of la Francophonie, the Commonwealth, and the Rio Group. He will also attend a dinner meeting of G-7 Foreign Ministers, at which Russia will be represented.

EDC Wins Prestigious National Productivity Award

September 22, 1994, no. 184

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, congratulates EDC (Export Development Corporation) for winning a silver Canadian Productivity Award. The award was presented last night to EDC for developing and implementing an innovative system used by the Short-Term Insurance division to analyze and approve customer credit requests. The entire process was redesigned, converting nearly all paper files to electronic format. The system can now process more credit approvals in much less time, which has led to greater efficiency and customer satisfaction. "It is particularly gratifying to see a federal agency recognized for excellence in productivity and efficiency," said Mr. MacLaren. "The EDC team should be proud — as should all the winners of this prestigious award — to be a leader in productivity. I encourage Canadian companies to strive toward maximizing their use of information technology to become even more competitive in the global marketplace."

STATEMENTS:

From the federal government's point of view, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are a vital national resource, the fastest-growing component of the economy, the most knowledge-intensive, the most responsive to rapid change, and the largest creator of new jobs. During the 1980s, firms with fewer than 100 employees created over 2.3 million net new jobs, or 87 per cent of the total growth in employment. During this decade, they have the potential to perform even more impressively. However, the job- and wealth-creating capabilities of this impressive national resource will not be fully utilized until SMEs become much more active exporters. Canada is a trading nation, with about one third of our GDP [gross domestic product] derived from exports. But as it stands now, our exports rest on a foundation that is too narrow, with a relatively small number of firms accounting for the majority of our exports. We all have a stake in seeing SMEs export more. In recent months, the federal government has been conducting a comprehensive review of programs aimed at small businesses. The goal is to create greater awareness of export opportunities and to enhance our marketing