

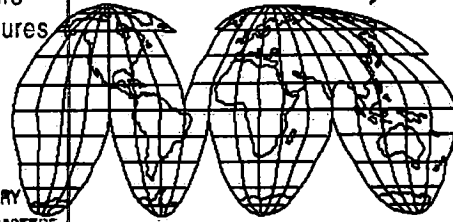
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**Le commerce et
la politique étrangère**
cette semaine

Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures

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January 26-February 1, 1995

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

(disponible en français)

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

Major European Tour by National Arts Centre Orchestra

January 31, 1995, no. 18

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced a \$200 000 grant to the National Arts Centre Orchestra for a major European tour in February and March 1995. The orchestra, under the direction of Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Trevor Pinnock, will perform in 15 different cities in seven countries. Appearing as guest soloists will be the renowned Canadian pianist, Louis Lortie, and the famous Swedish trumpeter, Hakan Hardenberger. The Orchestra's last tour of Europe was in 1990. "I am pleased that the NAC Orchestra will be returning to Europe and that European audiences will again have an opportunity to experience the creativity and quality of its music. I am certain that the Orchestra will represent Canada with great distinction, and I wish Maestro Pinnock and the musicians a successful and rewarding tour," said Mr. Ouellet.

Canada Urges Peaceful Resolution of Peru-Ecuador Conflict

January 30, 1995, no. 17

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet urged a peaceful and rapid settlement of the border conflict between Peru and Ecuador, and called on the two countries to avoid any further escalation of tensions. "Canada supports the mediation efforts undertaken by the four guarantor countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States) of the 1942 Rio Protocol, which had settled the border question," said Mr. Ouellet.

Ouellet Welcomes New Canadian Business Links with Lebanon

January 27, 1995, no. 16

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet travelled to Tripoli, Lebanon, to witness the signing of a C\$23-million contract recently won by AFCAN Ltd. of Montreal. "The reconstruction of Lebanon offers Canadian companies innumerable opportunities in a wide range of sectors," Mr. Ouellet noted. "I am very pleased that a number of Canadian firms have recognized the potential and are successfully seeking new business in this lucrative and burgeoning market." The company, which specializes in the design, construction and outfitting of facilities in the health sector, is involved in the building of a major new medical centre in Tripoli.

Ouellet Inaugurates Canadian Embassy in Beirut

January 26, 1995, no. 15

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet officially inaugurated Canada's embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. The embassy had been closed in 1985 owing to the conflict in Lebanon, and its personnel had been transferred to the Canadian embassy in Damascus, Syria. The embassy will be operational effective April 1, 1995. "The reopening of our embassy in Beirut marks a turning point in Canada's relations with Lebanon. We are now in a better position to assist more effectively in the reconstruction of the country and to develop closer social, political and economic ties, particularly between the people of Lebanon and Canadians of Lebanese background," said Mr. Ouellet.

CIDA

Canada Assists Lebanon with Taxation Reform

January 27, 1995, no. 95-02

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that Canada will contribute to an initiative launched by Lebanon's Ministry of Finance to strengthen its revenue collection. Mr Ouellet made the announcement during a meeting with Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. "Canada's expertise will help support improvements to the tax collection system in co-operation with the World Bank and other donors," said Mr. Ouellet. The project, supported by \$4.8 million over five years from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), aims to rebuild the institutions of tax administration and strengthen collection procedures.