



news release

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QUELLET WELCOMES TERMINATION OF COCOM

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today welcomed the termination of the Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Strategic Export Controls (COCOM), the export controls regime that restricted Western trade with Communist countries during the Cold War.

"The termination of COCOM lifts the last remnant of Cold War export controls and paves the way for a new export controls arrangement. This is an important political step and marks the opening of trade opportunities in the area of high technology for Canadian companies," said Mr. Ouellet.

COCOM was set up in 1948. It was designed to control the export of nuclear, military and a wide range of industrial goods from North Atlantic Treaty Organization members (except Iceland), Japan and Australia, to countries of the former Warsaw Treaty Organization, China, North Korea and Viet Nam. Canada joined in 1950.

A new arrangement is now being developed that will reflect new world realities. It will engage countries including Russia in a multilateral framework for exercising restraint in transfers of arms and sensitive dual-use items, in particular with respect to exports to countries or regions of concern. Mr. Ouellet expressed the hope that the new arrangement can be fully functional by October 1994. Existing controls will continue in effect until the new arrangement is in place.

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