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Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international (BCF)

Le commerce et
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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE:
PRESS RELEASES:

MacLaren Determined to Contest U.S. Extraordinary Challenge on Softwood Lumber

April 6, 1994, No. 68

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, has expressed the Canadian government's determination to contest a U.S. challenge of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) binational panel on softwood lumber. The U.S. government today formally requested the establishment of an Extraordinary Challenge Committee (ECC) to review the panel decision. The U.S. government's request for an ECC alleges that the panel did not apply the correct standard of review, and that two Canadian panelists materially breached the disclosure obligations of the Code of Conduct. "We see absolutely no grounds for these allegations," said Mr. MacLaren. "The panel correctly found in Canada's favour because of the strength of our case, and we are confident that this will again be demonstrated in the ECC."

MacLaren Announces Canada-Korea Special Partnership Working Group

April 6, 1994, No. 67

The Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Roy MacLaren, announced the establishment of a Canada-Korea special partnership working group following his visit to South Korea March 31 to April 5. The purpose of the working group is to increase economic links and to strengthen trade and investment ties between the two countries. This new initiative, announced jointly with Korea's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Han Sun-Joo, follows up on a commitment made at the November meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Korean President Kim Young Sam to give priority to developing a special partnership between Canada and Korea. "As middle powers of the Asia-Pacific region, we agreed we should co-operate closely on bilateral and multilateral issues," Mr. MacLaren said in Seoul after meetings with Korean government ministers and officials. "Our aim is to cope effectively with the new international economic environment created by the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations and the launch of the North American Free Trade Agreement."

Secretary of State Stewart to Travel to El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico

April 5, 1994, No. 66

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will travel to El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico April 6-12. "Mrs. Stewart's visit underscores Canada's ongoing commitment to peace and democratic development in Central America," said Mr. Ouellet. "I look forward this visit at a time when Salvadorans are engaged in their first democratic elections, and both sides of the conflict in Guatemala have signed an accord on human rights," Mrs. Stewart added.

Canada Announces Nuclear Dismantlement Package for Ukraine

April 1, 1994, No. 65

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced a \$15-million package of Canadian assistance to Ukraine to support nuclear dismantlement and enhanced nuclear safety. The package, announced during Mr. Ouellet's visit to Kiev, is part of Canada's contribution to Western assistance efforts to promote de-nuclearization and encourage Ukrainian accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "Canada is committed to working closely with Ukraine to enhance international stability and security. This assistance package will help Ukraine de-nuclearize by making Canadian expertise available to address such urgent needs as nuclear waste management, environmental restoration and enhanced civilian nuclear-safety systems," said Mr. Ouellet.