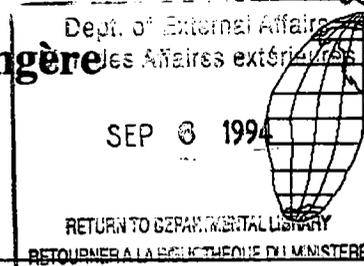


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Le commerce et la politique étrangère cette semaine

July 21 - 27, 1994



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

(disponible en français)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE: PRESS RELEASES:

Far Eastern Tour by the Vancouver Chamber Choir

July 27, 1994, no. 151

"Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet ... announced a grant of \$70 000 to the Vancouver Chamber Choir for a concert tour of Japan and Korea from July 27 to August 23, 1994. 'The Vancouver Chamber Choir will compete in two world-class choral events and perform in a number of major Asian cities. Cultural exchanges are an important element of Canada's international relations and I wish the members of the Choir success as they represent Canada on this exciting tour,' said Mr. Ouellet."

Ouellet Condemns Attacks against Israeli and Jewish Targets

July 27, 1994, no. 150

"Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet ... condemned the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in London and attacks against Jewish targets in the United Kingdom, Argentina and Panama. ... 'These acts only serve to underscore the importance of concluding a just peace in the Middle East and testify to the wisdom, courage and leadership of those who have fought so hard for peace, especially Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Arafat and King Hussein of Jordan,' said Mr. Ouellet."

Ouellet Welcomes Signing of Jordan-Israel Agreement

July 25, 1994, no. 149

"Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet ... warmly welcomed the signing of the Washington Declaration by King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, which brings to an end the "state of belligerency" between Jordan and Israel. 'The signing of the Washington Declaration is another historic step toward the conclusion of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. All Canadians pay tribute to the leadership and courage of King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin,' said Mr. Ouellet."

STATEMENTS:

"... With the inauguration yesterday of the ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] Regional Forum [ARF] we have opened another important channel for consultations within the ASEAN-led process. With the ARF we have started something new — something that both reflects the profoundly changed international situation and signals the way for the future. Inspired by the ASEAN traditions of discussion and consensus, we have begun to develop a framework for a co-operative security dialogue which will contribute to stability and prosperity in the region. ... I would like to address briefly three issues which are of particular interest to ASEAN and to the Dialogue Partners. I speak of Cambodia, Viet Nam and Burma. Cambodia represents one of the great successes, and continuing challenges, of international peacekeeping. Canada was proud to be a signatory to the Paris Peace Accords. We provided over 200 service personnel and 100 civilians as our contribution to the largest peacekeeping operation in the United Nations history. It is thus with increasing concern that we note recent developments in the country that now threaten the gains which have been achieved at such cost. The Khmer Rouge, whose appalling human rights abuses shocked the world in the 1970s and which boycotted the UN-sponsored elections, are continuing the civil conflict in the country. While, ultimately, Cambodians themselves must achieve a lasting peace to allow the reconstruction of their country, it is in the interest of the entire international community to ensure that the legitimately elected government is supported and that strong measures are taken to ensure that the Khmer Rouge receive no assistance from any source. Viet Nam is continuing its reintegration into the regional and world economies, a process which receives Canada's full support. Our bilateral relations with Viet Nam are continuing to improve. In June, Canada welcomed Viet Nam's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Phan Van Khai. During that visit Canada and Viet Nam signed the first agreements between our two countries in the spheres of economic and development co-operation. In this context, we look forward to a rapidly expanding relationship. We are concerned that stability in another part of the region remains elusive. I am speaking of Burma, where the military regime continues to block democratic reform, detain political opponents without trial and impose harsh and unjust treatment on large segments of the population. While Burma's opening to its neighbours after decades of self-imposed isolation is encouraging and may offer the hope that the regime's policies will moderate over time, we need to see evidence of real commitment to political reform. We call on the Burmese regime to respond to the concerns of the international community by releasing all political prisoners and by taking concrete measures for the restoration of democracy. We hope that other countries, including our ASEAN partners, will take account of these concerns in their approach to Burma, perhaps in the form of benchmarks that would measure the progress of reform. ... "

Notes for an Address by the Honourable André Ouellet, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference Six Plus Seven Open Session (Bangkok, Thailand, July 26, 1994, 94/38)

"As International Trade Minister, I am confronted with issues that go beyond international trade in goods. As you are well aware, trade also means services and, increasingly, servicing a foreign market means making an investment. In the case of Canada and Europe, the flow of investment has become a fundamental characteristic of our bilateral relations. ... National treatment, cultural and market differences, varying standards and business practices, and proximity to clients are but a few of the main factors which have made investment one of the most practical market penetration techniques between regional economic groupings such as North America and Europe. ... In the specific area of investment, a number of bilateral agreements are already in place to facilitate the two-way flow of investment. Further negotiations are under way with the European Union on agreements on standards, science and technology and customs co-operation ... At the multilateral level, notably within the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD] and the GATT/WTO [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/World Trade Organization], work is being done to establish principles and issues that would lead to an international investment agreement putting investment under a similar discipline as trade in goods and services. The need for such discipline stems from the fact that, despite significant progress, many countries have not done enough to liberalize their laws and