

**MacLaren to Lead Business Delegation to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia**

**April 21, 1994, No. 78**

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced today that he will lead a high-level business delegation to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, April 25-28. The visit will undertake to expand trade and commercial opportunities for Canadian companies seeking to do business in both countries. "Since the Gulf War, Canada and Kuwait have become important trading partners," Mr. MacLaren said. "Kuwait has growing interest in Canadian goods and services. Opportunities exist for Canadian firms in a number of sectors, including oil and gas, education, medical equipment, health care, telecommunications, security equipment, and consulting engineering services. Saudi Arabia is our largest trading partner in the Middle East. Last year, Canada exported \$658 million in goods to Saudi Arabia, an increase of 52 percent over 1992. This reflects a strengthening economic relationship between our two countries."

**Ouellet Announces Canadian Visit of ACCT Secretary-General**

**April 21, 1994, No. 77**

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that Mr. Jean-Louis Roy, Secretary-General of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT), will pay a working visit to Canada from April 24 to 26. During his Ottawa visit, Mr. Roy will meet with Prime Minister Chrétien and Minister Ouellet. "These meetings will give us an opportunity to confirm our support for Mr. Roy and the extraordinary job of revitalization he has done since 1989, and to congratulate him on the vote of confidence given him by the whole international Francophone community in renewing his mandate for a second term," said Mr. Ouellet.

**STATEMENT:**

The Jean Monnet Chair, whose establishment we are celebrating today, is a model of co-operation. The father of the European Union would have welcomed such a project with enthusiasm. This chair is important for two reasons. It will help our educators and researchers to promote studies on European integration and our transatlantic relations. It also reflects our common desire to favour partnership among the Government, the academic community and the private sector. Through its openness, its spirit of consultation and by bringing people closer together, this chair will benefit all Canadians. The Jean Monnet Chair is the first to be created outside the European Union. It is significant that Canada was chosen. This choice testifies, not only to the favourable reputation that Canada enjoys with the European Union, but also to the excellent reputation of our academic institutions internationally.

Notes for an Address by the Honourable André Ouellet, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Launching of the Jean Monnet Chair at the University of Montreal, (Montreal, Quebec, April 25, 1994, 94/17).

**CIDA :**

**Canada Provides Vaccine for Pakistan's Polio Immunization Drive**

**April 26, 1994, 94-14**

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is contributing \$4.3 million towards Pakistan's National Polio Immunization Days, Jesse Flis, Parliamentary Secretary to Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet, announced on behalf of the Minister. More than 20 million Pakistani children -- the entire population of children under five -- are to be inoculated twice, on April 27 and May 28, 1994, in a national campaign to control the crippling disease.... Pakistan accounts for 22 percent of polio cases reported worldwide, with 1 803 cases reported last year. More than half of the 40 million doses of oral polio vaccine needed for Pakistan's Immunization Days will be provided by Canada. "Our contribution reflects Canada's long-standing commitment to eliminate this deadly disease," Mr. Flis said. "Through the efforts of nations worldwide, smallpox was beaten. Now it's polio's turn to disappear."

**FINANCE:**

**PRESS RELEASE:**

**Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors of Canada, the United States and Mexico Agree to Strengthen Co-operation**

**April 26, 1994, No. 94-039**

Finance Minister Paul Martin and Bank of Canada Governor Gordon Thiessen met with their counterparts from the United States and Mexico in the first meeting of a new consultative group, the North American Financial Group, that will be a forum for annual consultations on economic and financial developments. The group was formed in recognition of the increasingly interdependent economic relationship among the three countries. As part of the inaugural meeting, it was announced that a trilateral foreign exchange swap facility was established among Canada, the United States and Mexico. Under this arrangement the Bank of Canada and the U.S. Federal Reserve reaffirmed their existing swap line in the amount of US\$2 billion. In addition, the Bank of Canada and the Bank of Mexico expanded their existing swap facility to C\$1 billion.

**STATEMENT:**

To put our economic houses in order, the industrial countries must begin with strategies that address our most pressing problem: the unacceptably high unemployment that affects us all to varying degrees.... Much of the rise in unemployment in industrial economies over the last twenty-five years has been due to inflexible and increasingly overtaxed labour markets, as well as inadequate structural policies. We need to review our social programs to enhance the incentives to work. We need to re-examine economic regulations, and jettison those which are outdated or inefficient. We need to take advantage of technological change by equipping workers with the right skills, starting with basic education and specific technology training. These issues will be the focus of discussion at the May OECD Ministerial and the Naples Summit.... Indeed, fiscal realities in Canada are now such that deficit reduction is a precondition to boosting job growth; but as well, reducing unemployment is essential for deficit reduction.

Notes for an Address by the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of Finance, to the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (Washington, D.C., April 25, 1994, 94-038)

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- May 9-10, 1994: OECD: 74 th Meeting of Executive Council (Paris, France)
- June 5-11, 1994: OAS Annual Assembly (Belem, Brazil)
- June 9-10, 1994: NATO, North Atlantic Council and North Atlantic Co-operation Council Meetings (Istanbul, Turkey)
- July 8-10, 1994: G-7 Economic Summit (Naples, Italy)

