

This Week in Trade and Foreign Policy **Le commerce et la politique étrangère cette semaine**

February 3-9, 1994



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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE:

PRESS RELEASES:

Quellet Outraged by Sarajevo Atrocity

February 6, 1994, No. 19

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet expressed Canada's shock and outrage at the recent deliberate killing and wounding of hundreds of innocent civilians in Sarajevo. "This latest atrocity underscores the urgent need for concerted international action to prevent further violence against the innocent civilian population of Sarajevo. I emphasized this in conversations with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and British Foreign Secretary Hurd," Mr. Ouellet said.

Canada Welcomes Ukrainian Ratification of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START 1)

February 4, 1994, No. 18

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet welcomed the unconditional ratification by the Ukrainian parliament of the START 1 Treaty and the Lisbon Protocol, which commits Ukraine to acceding to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapons state. "The government and parliament of Ukraine have acted courageously in the spirit of the tripartite agreement recently signed with the United States and Russia. They have recognized that denuclearization is the best way to ensure Ukraine's security and promote stability in the region. We expect that Ukraine will now move quickly to implement START 1 and accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty," said Mr. Ouellet.

STATEMENTS:

The central challenge of Canadian trade and economic policy in the late twentieth century [is] how to pursue our national interests in a world where economies are not only increasingly integrated but international institutions are struggling to keep up. The answer, I would suggest, lies largely in developing a more independent, more agile and more focused trade agenda based on a strategic assessment of where our economic interests lie.... Let me set forth what I believe should be our three strategic objectives. First, we must begin to target our global economic priorities more clearly. The second part of this more strategic approach to trade policy is to devise ways to target government programs and resources more effectively, to assist Canadian companies to be even more successful international players. Of particular concern to this government is the role of small and medium-sized enterprises, which have the potential to be the growth engines of the future but often lack the critical mass, the financial resources, or the technical expertise to penetrate foreign markets. Finally, we must foster a domestic economic environment conducive to export-led growth. It has become commonplace to observe that the boundary between national and international issues is becoming blurred.... An aggressive, outward-looking trade agenda is critical to economic recovery and job creation. While Canada's international objectives remain unchanged -- opening up high-growth markets, encouraging internationally competitive industries and enhancing rules-based trading regimes -- our tools and approaches will need to be new, to reflect the realities of the new global economy.

Notes for an Address by the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, at the Canadian Luncheon (Davos, Switzerland, January 29, 1994, No. 94/5).

As you are aware, Canada lifted economic sanctions against South Africa last September. Only the United Nations military embargo on trade in military goods is currently being observed. What impact has the lifting of economic sanctions had on our bilateral relationship? Frankly, we have turned the page. I can say with some assurance that we have now ushered a new era of bilateral co-operation, which I hope will be strengthened in the years ahead. As a government, we have reinstated the full range of trade support measures for trade with South Africa. The most obvious example is the opening, last October, of the trade section of the Canadian Embassy in Johannesburg. It is currently staffed by four trade specialists, two from Canada. This is an important indication of our confidence in the new South Africa. Export credit and insurance is now available to Canadian exporters to South Africa through the Export Development Corporation, which has now placed South Africa on cover for short- to medium-term coverage.... From the perspective of South African exports to Canada, the lifting of the trade sanctions now permits you to sell your agricultural produce as well as coal, iron and steel products to Canada. More importantly, the lifting of sanctions now permits Canadian companies and banks to engage in investment and financial transactions with South Africa.... My government's role is to ensure that the appropriate structures and agreements are in place to foster trade and investment initiatives. In these days of mounting government debt and declining flexibility of governments to undertake infrastructure and other initiatives, we are very supportive of private-sector initiatives that encourage trade and investment as a means of achieving growth.... We anticipate that with very active Canadian and South African business communities, our two-way trade can quickly attain its pre-sanctions 1986 level of almost C\$500 million.

Notes for an address by the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, to the South African Chamber of Business (Johannesburg, South Africa, February 1, 1994, No. 94/4).

I share the thinking of many of you here tonight that efforts must be made to put an end to economic apartheid. How you set out to achieve this goal is a matter for South Africans to decide. Nonetheless, I can assure you that in those areas in which we as Canadians can be of assistance, we will endeavour to be so. In this respect I must underscore my personal conviction that the transformation of society cannot be undertaken by a government on its own and without the support of the rest of society. In the economic sphere the co-operation of the private sector is vital.... What do we have to offer at this time, you may ask? My role as a minister of the Canadian government is to ensure that the appropriate structures are in place that will permit the private sector to do what it does best. In this regard, since the lifting of sanctions, the Government has endeavoured to reinstate all trade support measures that had been withdrawn when sanctions were imposed. In terms of specifics we are quite proud of the encouragement that the Canadian Assistance to Black Business in South Africa project has provided to small, Black entrepreneurs. Since 1989, the project has provided assistance to 81 small, Black-owned companies, in various parts of South Africa but mostly in the townships, which in turn generated an estimated 1800 jobs. Our Canadian Exporters' Association is also planning a franchising mission to South Africa later this year. Its goal will be to seek potential franchising partners and the focus will be on small to medium-sized businesses.

Notes for an address by the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, on the Occasion of the Dinner on Economic Empowerment in the New South Africa (Johannesburg, South Africa, January 31, 1994, No. 94/3).