

effort to promote the partnership between all economic stakeholders....We have also begun to take steps in this direction with our partners in the Quebec government and business community. For example, the Centre Info-Entrepreneurs, an information centre for business people, has been opened in Montreal....We plan to increase our investment in such centres by \$15 million yearly....However, we must realize that there are still obstacles to entering into beneficial partnerships. Not the least of these is overlapping or duplication between organizations.... It is our job to both streamline and improve the operation of programs and services. If there are cumbersome elements in the system, they will be done away with. We are determined to pursue this course in the coming months and years.

**Notes for an Address by the Honourable André Ouellet, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the Forum Économique de la Région de Québec, Quebec City, Quebec, February 15, 1995, 95/10**

Freedom and democracy command our attention not only as goals in their own right. They are also instruments, indispensable agents of progress towards the UN's other basic aims, in the security, development and humanitarian fields....A central preoccupation of Canada's foreign policy is to enhance the capacity of the international community to identify and address potential causes of instability before they lead to violent conflict....Human rights is also fundamental to creating an environment for sustainable development. The Canadian government identified human rights and democracy as a priority for its official development assistance program. We will pursue this priority through both bilateral and multilateral channels.... When it comes to human rights, there can be no second-class citizens anywhere....Over the past two years, Canada has worked closely with other governments and with the non-governmental community to bring the struggle for women's equality and human rights into the mainstream of this Commission's deliberations....No country is without its human rights problems, and for my country the plight of its Aboriginal citizens is a matter of particular concern.... We are determined to help build stronger, healthier and more self-reliant Aboriginal communities....The Commission on Human Rights is the most important and complex United Nations forum apart from the General Assembly....We need better preparation; and better preparation requires, above all, more time between the closing of the General Assembly's human rights debate and the start of the Commission....These are the challenges we collectively face — building our human rights institutions and putting them to work in real-life situations.... We must keep faith with the citizens of all of our countries, whose well-being we are pledged by our Charter to serve.

**Notes for an Address by the Honourable Christine Stewart, Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa), to the 51st Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland, February 10, 1995, 95/9**

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

February 20:	OAS Secretary-General Visits Ottawa
February 23-24:	U.S. President Clinton Visits Ottawa
March 6-12:	World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen

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