

KOREA

Official Name:	Republic of Korea
Capital:	Seoul
Head of State:	President Kim Young-sam
Head of Government (Chairman of State Council):	President Kim Young-sam
Vice-Chairman of State Council:	Prime Minister Hwang In-sung
Foreign Minister:	Dr. Huan Sung-joo
Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy:	Dr. Kim Chul Su

DOMESTIC SITUATION

Korea's new government is committed to wide-reaching, democratic reforms, and the President enjoys high public support, particularly over his anti-corruption drive. The human rights situation has improved dramatically, and is no longer a matter of major concern.

The more sophisticated foreign policy announced by the new administration will make Korea a more active player in regional security issues, regional economic co-operation and international affairs. It is especially worried about North Korea, including its suspected nuclear weapons program, but is urging a careful, well-modulated international approach to avoid providing grounds for precipitate actions by Pyongyang. The U.S. security umbrella remains of paramount importance, though Korea would like to diversify its political relationships with other friendly countries such as Canada.

The economy has faltered recently, but still shows great strengths and potential. Korea is concerned about protectionist sentiments in the U.S. and Europe.

CANADIAN INTERESTS

i) Trade and Economic

Korea is now Canada's third largest market in Asia Pacific (after Japan and China) and seventh largest globally (exports of \$1.4 billion in 1992). Canada is Korea's third most important destination for foreign investment.

Significant efforts are being made to expand exports to Korea of manufactured goods and to preserve Canada's market share for resource products. Co-operation in the nuclear sector has been particularly successful. To date, Canada has sold four CANDU reactors; one unit is in operation, construction is under way on the