

Government Announces Upcoming Release of NAFTA Environmental Review

September 8, 1992, No. 177

The Honourable Michael Wilson and the Honourable Jean Charest, Minister of the Environment, announced that the environmental review of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will be released following its consideration by Cabinet. "The release of the environmental review will contribute to informed discussion of the NAFTA," Mr. Wilson said. He noted that environmental issues were carefully addressed in the negotiations for the NAFTA. "The NAFTA includes more environmental provisions than any previous trade agreement, and Canada was an active proponent of these provisions," the Minister added. "Canada was one of the first countries to require an environmental review of government policies," Mr. Charest said. The NAFTA Environmental Review Committee had two fundamental objectives. The first was to ensure that environmental considerations be taken into account throughout the NAFTA negotiating process. The second was to document, for consideration by the Cabinet at the same time as the completed Agreement, its potential environmental effects.

Maritime Sanctions Against Serbia and Montenegro

September 4, 1992, No. 176

The Honourable Barbara McDougall advised Canadian firms not to enter into financial transactions involving Serbian and Montenegrin companies that are trying to circumvent United Nations sanctions by registering their ships in other countries. The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 757 on May 30. It imposes a trade and air embargo on Serbia and Montenegro, the two former republics which continue to use the name "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia." The Resolution forbids economic transactions with these republics, including indirect financial transfers. "Our vigilance with regard to these sanctions underlines Canada's commitment to the restoration of peace in the Balkans," said Mrs. McDougall. "The UN sanctions are clear, and we will not allow re-flagged Yugoslav ships to violate them. I urge all other countries to closely adhere to these sanctions." A Notice to Commercial Parties is being issued, listing company names and locations, as well as the names of ships suspected of being under Yugoslav control.

Canada Welcomes Chemical Weapons Convention

September 3, 1992, No. 175

The Honourable Barbara McDougall welcomed the approval of a Chemical Weapons Convention at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. When implemented, the Convention will succeed in eliminating a whole category of weapons of mass destruction. "This Convention represents one of Canada's major arms control objectives," said Mrs. McDougall. "Ever since Canadian soldiers first came under gas attack in Ypres 77 years ago, Canada has advocated a total abolition of chemical weapons." The document will now be forwarded to the United Nations, where Canada will co-sponsor a resolution calling for its adoption. A formal signing ceremony will be held in Paris, possibly as early as January 1993.

Upcoming Events

- September 10-11, 1992: Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Ministerial Meeting (Bangkok, Thailand)
- September 15, 1992: United Nations General Assembly (New York)
- December 14-15, 1992: CSCE Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting (Stockholm)

Additional copies of the above documents can be ordered through External Affairs and International Trade Canada at (613) 993-6435 or toll-free at 1-800-267-8376. "This Week in Trade and Foreign Policy/Le commerce et la politique étrangère cette semaine" is produced weekly by the Trade and Foreign Policy Communications Bureau of External Affairs and International Trade Canada.