

# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

**February 23, 2001**

**(3:00 p.m. EST)**

**No. 5**

## **PETTIGREW TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA**

Media representatives are advised that International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew will travel to Washington, D.C., February 26; Guatemala, February 27 and 28; Jamaica, February 28 and March 1; and Costa Rica, March 1 and 2.

In Washington, Minister Pettigrew will meet with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick and Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans. The purpose of the Minister's trip is to highlight the importance of the Canada-U.S. trade relationship and the need to manage trade issues carefully.

Other priority issues will include the NAFTA, (clarifying investment provisions); the WTO; other bilateral issues, including softwood lumber, the U.S. ban on P.E.I. potatoes; and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations.

In Guatemala, Minister Pettigrew will discuss the FTAA with Central American Ministers of the Economy at the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA). He will also attend a reception in honour of a trade mission led by Montreal Mayor Pierre Bourque.

In Jamaica, Mr. Pettigrew will discuss issues of mutual interest with Trade Minister Anthony Hylton. Topics under discussion will include the FTAA, progress toward a proposed Canada-Caricom Free Trade Agreement, and the Summit of the Americas meeting in Quebec City.

In Costa Rica, Minister Pettigrew will meet with Tomás Duenas, Minister of Foreign Trade. This will be an opportunity to review progress on a number of issues, specifically the Canada-Costa Rica Free Trade Agreement, the Canada-Central America and Canada-Caricom discussions, as well as the lead-up to the FTAA Ministerial meeting in Buenos Aires in April.

