

Minister Chrétien is to make a successful transition from a relationship dominated by the security concerns of the Cold War to one shaped by our common economic interests. That the Europeans share our concern is evidenced by the EU initiative to organize the economic conference, entitled Canada and the European Union — A Relationship in Focus, to be held in Toronto in October. ... First, however, we must dispel a number of myths that surround our relations with Europe in the post-NAFTA, post-Maastricht world. The first and most damaging myth is that Europe no longer matters to Canada because of the NAFTA. Canada's geography determines that the United States is our major trading partner. Open regional arrangements such as the NAFTA are simply common sense and should not be considered an effort to create an exclusionary trade bloc. ... What is more important than geography among trading partners is a shared commitment to fuller development of rules-based trade — a GATT-plus, if you will. Through accession, the NAFTA promises to be a non-discriminatory, comprehensive free trade regime fundamentally, in my view, open to all. The second myth is that Canada is focused mainly on the Asia-Pacific region. ... However, developing new markets does not have to occur at the expense of current markets. Canada is committed to expanding its trade relations on all fronts — North America, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and certainly Europe. The third and final myth is that in creating the world's largest trading bloc, the European market is closed to Canadians and other outsiders. ... Recent trade statistics show that Canada can compete in Europe. Our two-way trade with the EU alone was worth \$25 billion last year. Since 1986 our exports to the European Union have grown at an average annual rate of six per cent. ... Our investment statistics are equally impressive. Canadian direct investment in the EU almost tripled from 1985 to 1992 to reach \$21 billion, while EU investment in Canada doubled to reach \$32 billion in the same period. In 1992, the EU accounted for almost one quarter of the total foreign direct investment in Canada. ... I believe the newly formed World Trade Organization [WTO] will provide the critical framework necessary for a stronger economic relationship in the years ahead. The improved market access provided by the Uruguay Round coupled with economic recovery in Europe holds great promise for Canada. ... Canada and Europe share a commonality on issues facing the World Trade Organization. We must work hard to ensure that the WTO develops a forward-looking and balanced agenda to deal with unfinished business such as the reform of anti-dumping regimes. We must also tackle emerging issues such as the possible harmonization of national competition policies and questions of trade and the environment and labour standards. The outcomes will have a considerable bearing on future Canada-EU relations. ... The challenge ahead is to take full advantage of the recent trade policy advances and translate them into commercial opportunities. This is the role of the business community — both multinational corporations and small- and medium-sized enterprises. In particular, I urge you to take up the challenge and put your products and services to the test."

Notes for an Address by the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, to the European Chamber of Commerce (Toronto, Ontario, July 12, 1994, 94/33)

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION CANADA

STATEMENTS:

"One of the most difficult issues any country faces with respect to immigration is the question of enforcement and removals - dealing with foreign nationals who disregard our laws, have no legal status, and no right to remain within our borders. ... If we tolerate abuse — if we allow people to violate the law with impunity — then we compromise the credibility of the program and the trust of Canadians. We also compromise the very safety and security of Canadian citizens. I will not allow people to make a mockery of our laws, and I will not put Canadians at risk. I am announcing ... a comprehensive reorientation of Canada's removal policies. This orientation is based on three elements: first, an initiative on refused refugee claimants — I will resolve the cases of people who have not been removed in the past because of general unrest in their homeland. We will ensure that deferred removals are acted upon efficiently and fairly; second, a new removals strategy to concentrate first and foremost on getting criminals out of this country; third, the creation of a special Task Force, including 20 police officers on assignment from the RCMP. The task force will concentrate immediately and exclusively on tracking down and removing foreign criminals with serious convictions who have evaded removal action. Our Immigration officers will be on the task force which will also be supported by local police forces. Moreover, 10 additional Immigration staff will be assigned to support the task force in the greater Toronto area. As well, I am maintaining the complement of 36 Immigration investigators in Toronto."

Statement by the Honourable Sergio Marchi, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, (Ottawa, Ontario, July 7, 1994)

CIDA

CIDA and Canadian Occidental Petroleum to Provide Humanitarian Assistance to the Population of Yemen

July 12, 1994, no. 94-24

"Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Canadian Occidental President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Bernard Isautier, announced ... that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Canadian Occidental Petroleum will combine efforts to help victims of the conflict in Yemen. ... CIDA will provide \$500 000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), while Canadian Occidental will provide \$250 000, for a total Canadian contribution of \$750 000. ... 'This conflict has brought tragedy to the people of Yemen,' said Mr. Ouellet. 'I am very satisfied that Canadian Occidental and the Government of Canada can together contribute to humanitarian relief efforts in this Middle-Eastern country.'"

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