

outside world. During his stay in Canada, the Laotian minister will meet with Mr. Ouellet to discuss regional security and the possibility of establishing development assistance programs in his country. He will also meet with representatives of the Canadian International Development Agency and the International Development Research Centre, which currently administer an assistance program in Laos.

MacLaren Announces Opening of Canada's Business Centre in Mexico City

October 3, 1994, no. 192

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced the opening of the first Canadian Business Centre abroad, to assist Canadian exporters doing business in Mexico. The Minister made the announcement during a speech to Canadian business representatives attending a day-long conference in Toronto celebrating the centenary of Canada's Trade Commissioner Service. "The Canadian Business Centre in Mexico City will provide Canadian exporters with the business support and facilities they need to successfully develop trade opportunities in this key growth region," Mr. MacLaren said. "We see this first Canadian Business Centre as a pilot project that could be replicated in other emerging world markets."

MacLaren Welcomes Private Sector Review of Trade Programs

October 3, 1994, no. 191

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, welcomed the final report of the International Business Development Review (IBDR), prepared by a private-sector steering committee chaired by L.R. "Red" Wilson, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bell Canada Enterprises Inc. of Montreal. In July 1994, Mr. MacLaren asked the committee to examine whether the Government's existing international business development programs and services should be changed to reflect current world conditions, taking into account the current fiscal restraints faced by the Government. "Overall, the committee's message is clear: sharpen the focus of programs, streamline operations, and better co-ordinate activities among federal departments and between the federal and provincial governments. These are goals I can readily accept," Mr. MacLaren said.

Canada Lifts Sanctions Against Haiti

September 29, 1994, no. 190

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet welcomed the adoption of Security Council Resolution 944, co-sponsored by Canada, which paves the way for the lifting of all United Nations sanctions against Haiti once President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has returned. "Canada is pleased to be associated with this resolution, which sets the stage for the return of President Aristide and the resumption of normal international relations. With the return of President Aristide, the task of building a democratic Haiti will begin," said Mr. Ouellet.

Canada-Korea Special Partnership Working Group Report

September 29, 1994, no. 189

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Han Sung-Joo, met in New York to receive the Report of the Canada-Korea Special Partnership Working Group. The Working Group was established during the visit to Seoul of Minister for International Trade Roy MacLaren on April 1, 1994; it was a follow-up to a commitment made by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and President Kim Young Sam at the November 1993 summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum to give priority to developing a special partnership between the two countries. The leaders of both governments shared the view that the two countries, as middle powers in the Asia-Pacific region, should cooperate closely with each other, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to cope more effectively with a new international economic environment.

Ouellet Outlines Priorities for UN Reform

September 29, 1994, no. 189

In Canada's address to the 49th annual session of the United Nations General Assembly, Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet called on the world community to give the UN the tools and powers necessary to carry out its global mandate. "As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UN, we must ensure it has modern and flexible methods of management which will permit the organization to respond more efficiently to the demands of our time," said Mr. Ouellet. In his speech, Mr. Ouellet outlined five main priorities for UN reform that the Government of Canada will actively pursue: **Strengthening the UN system's capacity for preventive action:** Mr. Ouellet called for regular Summit meetings of the UN Security Council to consider evolving threats to peace and security. In addition, he said that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) should conduct periodic public hearings, so it can identify and deal with the root economic and social causes of many conflicts. Mr. Ouellet added that any strategy to prevent armed conflict must include concrete disarmament measures. **Reviewing the UN's economic and social activities:** Mr. Ouellet called for a rethinking and reform of the role and mandate of all Bretton Woods institutions, with close attention to the need to reduce duplication. **Strengthening the UN's rapid intervention capability:** Mr. Ouellet announced that Canada will conduct a thorough study of the proposal for a standing UN force, drawing on the advice of international experts from around the world. He also announced that the former military base at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, will soon open as a centre devoted to research and training in peacekeeping. The centre will be named after former Canadian Prime Minister and Nobel Prize Laureate Lester B. Pearson. **Improving the function of UN decision-making bodies:** Mr. Ouellet said that Canada will work actively on negotiations to enlarge the Security Council to reflect current international realities. The Security Council must modify its methods, increase transparency and be more open to the viewpoints of non-members, especially countries which contribute peacekeeping troops. **Putting the UN on a sound financial footing:** Canada has called for a review of UN budgetary procedures to make them more transparent and simple.