

# News Release

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May 29, 1995

No. 100

## MACLAREN LEADS TRADE AND INVESTMENT MISSION TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, visited the Czech Republic today for discussions with ministers and representatives of the private sector. He was accompanied by a large delegation of Canadian businesses actively pursuing trade and investment opportunities.

"Members of my delegation and I are impressed by the speed and efficiency with which the transition to a market economy has been carried out in the Czech Republic," noted Mr. MacLaren.

During his visit, Mr. MacLaren met with the Czech Prime Minister, Vaclav Klaus, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Ivan Kocarnik, Foreign Minister, Josef Zieleniec, Minister of Economy, Karel Dyba, the Lord Mayor of Prague, Jan Koukal, as well as with his counterpart and host, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Vladimír Dlouhý. He also participated, with Minister Dlouhý, in a panel discussion at the Bohemia Foundation on the theme of transatlantic trade liberalization.

"Canada is at the forefront of international efforts to redefine the transatlantic relationship in the post-Cold War era, and is ready to co-operate with the Czech Republic in this effort" said Mr. MacLaren.

Mr. MacLaren opened a Canada-Czech Republic trade and investment seminar organized by the Canada-Czech Republic Chamber of Commerce, CzechInvest and the Czech Confederation of Industries. On that occasion, he witnessed the signing of a co-operation agreement between the Canada-Czech Republic Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic. The agreement commits both parties to strengthen trade and economic relations between companies of both countries.

Mr. MacLaren announced that Canada will provide a senior advisor, financed by the Canadian International Development Agency, to the Czech Agency for Foreign Investment (CzechInvest) to help design

