

skills and abilities. The larger challenge is to transform Canada from a nation dependent on trade into a true trading nation — with a much larger role being played by SMEs.

Notes for an address by the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, to the International Trade Committee of the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto (Toronto, Ontario, September 26, 1994, 94/54)

What we [the countries of the Western Hemisphere ] need at this point is an overarching trade and investment policy for the Americas — a larger, bolder vision that could serve to overshadow and ultimately overwhelm more parochial and divisive concerns. In short, we need a policy that reflects the openness, energy, and dynamism of our economies; that recognizes the creative synergy that can emerge from the marriage of developing and developed economies; that reaches out to all countries willing to commit to more intensive, more comprehensive rules-based trade. The NAFTA can provide the foundation for such a policy. With the political will, the NAFTA could be the nucleus for a wider free trade association that could in time include countries throughout the Western Hemisphere and beyond. With the right commitment, it could emerge as a new kind of economic association, one defined not by geography, but by a collective commitment to deeper levels of free trade: the nucleus of a new global GATT-plus. The underlying idea would not be to replace the existing multilateral system — still less to set up a discriminatory regional bloc — but to establish a coalition of countries willing to move further and more quickly toward the goal of trade and investment liberalization. A wider free trade association could also be one engine to drive the more cumbersome, but centrally important multilateral negotiating process that we all must encourage in the World Trade Organization.

Notes for an address by the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, to the Empire Club (Toronto, Ontario, September 23, 1994, 94/53)

**DEFENCE:**

**Canada Scales Down Rwanda Commitment**

**September 22, 1994, nr-43.043**

National Defence Minister David Collenette announced a scaling down of Canada's participation in UN operations in Rwanda in light of improvements in the humanitarian situation in that central African country. Thirty-nine members of the Field Ambulance unit operating a hospital in Mareru returned home over the past weekend with the remainder of the unit scheduled to depart Rwanda on October 15. "The work of the Field Ambulance unit has been outstanding," said Minister Collenette, "but happily, the UN and non-governmental organizations like Médecins sans Frontières and the Red Cross have stated that they are now able to handle the needs of the remaining refugees. However, it should be noted that we are also giving thousands of dollars worth of medical supplies and equipment to these organizations to help ensure the proper care of the refugees." The Hercules airlift from Nairobi to Kigali, named Operation Scotch, will also terminate now that the Kigali airport is open and commercial carriers are once more able to fly in and out of the Rwandan capital. "Canada should be extremely proud of the performance of the Canadian forces in Rwanda," concluded Mr. Collenette. "As they scale down their involvement in Rwanda and prepare for missions in other areas of the world that need our help, we should all remember that Canada's reputation as a world leader in peacekeeping is entirely due to the courageous and highly professional military men and women of all ranks who risk their lives every day in the cause of peace. Canadians owe them and their families a tremendous debt of gratitude for the contribution they make to world peace and stability."

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- September 26-30, 1994: Foreign Affairs Minister at United Nations General Assembly (49) (New York, New York)
- October 24, 1994: Launch of United Nations 50th Anniversary Commemoration Activities
- November 11-12, 1994: APEC Ministerial Meeting (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- December 3-9, 1994: Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe Summit (Budapest, Hungary)
- December 9-10, 1994: Hemispheric Summit (Miami, Florida)

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