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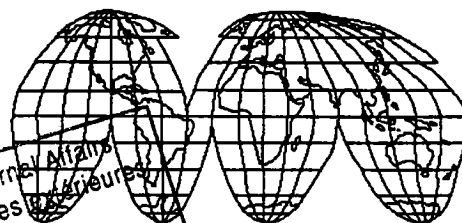
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**This Week Le commerce et
Trade and la politique étrangère
Foreign Policy cette semaine**

January 13-19, 1994



Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires étrangères

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PRESS RELEASES:**Ouellet Expresses Condolences on Death of Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst***January 14, 1994, No. 5*

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet sent the following message of condolence to the Prime Minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland: All Canadians were deeply saddened to learn of the tragic passing of Johan Jorgen Holst. Mr. Holst combined global vision with pragmatism. He was a friend of peace-loving men and women everywhere. His role in hosting the crucial talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians marked a key stage in the progress toward Middle East peace. He was a citizen of Norway but a world statesman whose contributions will live on in the future. On behalf of the Government of Canada I would be most grateful if you would please convey to his family our sincere condolences and the respect Canadians had for him and his life's work.

Ouellet Welcomes Decision to Resume Guatemalan Peace Talks*January 14, 1994, No. 4*

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today welcomed the decision by the Government of Guatemala and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit (URNG) to resume peace negotiations. The last round of peace talks broke down in May 1993. "This is a significant and encouraging step after an eight-month break in peace talks. Canada praises the flexibility shown by both parties in reaching this agreement and fully appreciates the difficulty and complexity of the issues to be negotiated," said Mr. Ouellet.

MacLaren to Attend NAFTA Commission Inaugural Meeting in Mexico*January 13, 1993, No. 3*

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade announced he would attend the January 14, inaugural meeting of the Free Trade Commission in Mexico City. The Commission will oversee the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Mr. MacLaren will meet with his counterparts, Mexico's Secretary of Trade and Industrial Development, Dr. Jaime Serra Puche, who will host the meeting, and the U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Mickey Kantor. "The Government of Canada places great importance on moving ahead with these working groups," Mr. MacLaren said. "We will work with our partners to build upon the progress on trade remedy issues achieved in the recent Uruguay Round negotiations. Our aim is to reduce disputes in our trading relationships."

STATEMENTS:

This government believes that it is time to develop a more independent foreign policy. The opportunities which exist to strengthen Canada's leadership role in international human rights, environment, development and trade issues are numerous. With new relationships and responsibilities on the horizon, the foreign policy that will guide our activities must reflect the changing world, along with the values that we uphold as Canadians.... One challenge that all member states of the United Nations now face is the revitalization of the human rights machinery. In Canada, we want to ensure that we are well-placed to make a positive contribution, and this is something we can work on together. With this in mind, the Minister of Foreign Affairs directed that Canada seek re-election to the Commission on Human Rights this year; the Prime Minister strongly supported that decision.... Solutions to the problem of violence against women are a priority within the borders of our own country, and Canada's leadership in recognizing violence as a violation of women's human rights led last month to the adoption of the UN Declaration on Violence Against Women. Canada also wants to strengthen the UN's role in securing respect for the basic rights and freedoms of indigenous people in all parts of the world. We expect that the Commission will soon take up the draft declaration prepared by the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and Canada will play an active role in this exercise. Most importantly, the Canadian delegation [to the UN Commission on Human Rights] will insist on full representation of indigenous representatives throughout the process. The relationship between Canada's economic interests and its human rights concerns is among the issues that should be considered in the foreign review process and upon which your input will be sought. The relationship between human rights and our development assistance objectives will also be considered. In my view, Canadian assistance toward the creation of an environment for sustainable development should contribute to the protection of human rights and to good government. Again, the involvement of the NGO community is of the utmost importance.

From an Address by the Honourable Christine Stewart, Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) at the 9th Annual Consultation Between Non-Governmental Organizations and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Preparation for the 50th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (Ottawa, Ontario, January 19, 1994, No. 94/1)