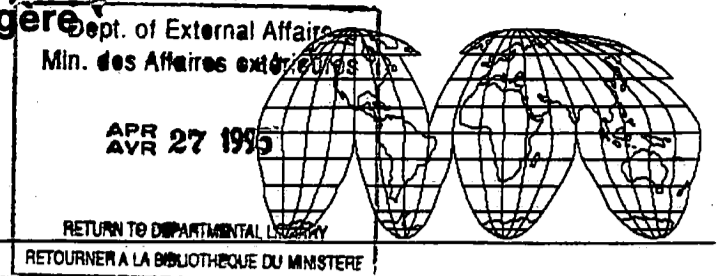


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**Le commerce et
la politique étrangère
cette semaine**



Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Foreign Policy Communications Division (BCF)

(disponible en français)

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE:
PRESS RELEASES:**

**Alberta and the Federal Government Sign Agreement on International
Business Development Co-operation**

April 19, 1995, no. 72

International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren, Industry Minister John Manley and Alberta Premier and Minister for Economic Development and Tourism Ralph Klein signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on international business development co-operation. The agreement sets the course for closer co-operation between Ottawa and Alberta in services for Albertan exporters. It provides for greater collaboration in planning, information sharing, fairs and missions, education and training, representation abroad, investment promotion, and industry and technology development. It seeks to broaden the access of Alberta businesses to international markets, improve their export preparedness, strengthen their performance in foreign markets and ensure the effective promotion of Canada and Alberta for investment and business opportunities. It also establishes a process for business and government to work together on achieving their international business development objectives. "As Canadians work toward more fiscally responsible government, services provided to our exporters by the federal and provincial governments need further co-ordination and rationalization. The agreement that we are signing today sets us squarely on this path. It commits us to work together to develop export readiness programs. It enhances our efforts to build a 'Trade Team Canada' approach to global markets," said Mr MacLaren.

**Canada Expresses Grave Concern Over EU Failure
to Conclude Fisheries Agreement**

April 14, 1995, no. 71

The ambassadors to Canada of the European Union, France and Spain were called in to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade today to receive Canada's strong protest over the EU's failure to conclude an agreement in the Greenland halibut overfishing dispute. The ambassadors were informed that unless Spanish vessels cease fishing, Canada will resume its enforcement actions on the Grand Banks off the coast of Newfoundland..... Mr. Smith told the ambassadors that Canada's commitment to conservation remains firm. Canada, he said, will not negotiate endlessly, while EU vessels continue aggressively and provocatively to fish what little is left of the Greenland halibut stock. He indicated that the EU should not interpret Canadian willingness to seek a negotiated settlement as a lack of determination to solve the problem. Unless fishing is halted, he said, Canada is left with no alternative but to resume its enforcement activities. Finally, the Deputy Minister noted that British and Irish naval vessels have taken action against Spanish trawlers, and evidence is emerging of illegal acts by those trawlers. He said Spain should consider the tremendous concern that is being expressed around the world about its fishing fleets.

Canada Welcomes Closure of Chernobyl

April 13, 1995, no. 70

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet welcomed Ukraine's announcement that the Chernobyl nuclear power station will be closed by the year 2000. "Canada and its G-7 partners have been working closely with the Ukrainian government to develop a plan for the early closure of Chernobyl. This announcement is a positive step forward," said Mr. Ouellet.

STATEMENTS

The fact is that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] provides a stable, predictable security environment, which is the prerequisite for nuclear disarmament. As I said earlier, Canada believes the NPT must link permanence with accountability. Future review conferences will ensure that, every five years, we will have the opportunity to strengthen compliance with Article VI as well as the other provisions of the Treaty. There is simply no substitute for the NPT. Its benefits for non-nuclear weapons states, in terms of bringing the NWS into compliance over time with the fundamental standards set out by the NPT, are invaluable. I believe that the Treaty speaks for itself in terms of its value and the need to perpetuate it indefinitely. We are faced with three simple choices: to extend the Treaty indefinitely, for a fixed period, or for a number of fixed periods. Only indefinite extension guarantees the future existence of the Treaty. Anything less runs the risk of calling the NPT into question at some future point. Indefinitely extending the NPT means enshrining, permanently, the legal commitment to dismantle all nuclear arsenals. The NPT is the only multilateral legal instrument to contain such an injunction. Without it, we have nothing. There is a temptation to say that countries can be forced into timetables and meeting goals that they have had no role in developing. In our view, this is an unproductive course. We believe that the seriousness of the issue demands that we think, speak and act pragmatically. In conclusion, as NPT states parties, we have the political responsibility to make a decision that