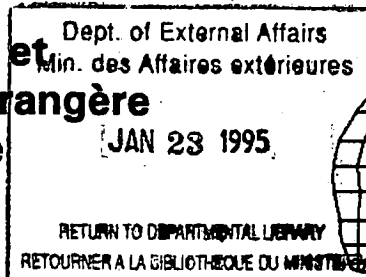


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**Le commerce et
la politique étrangère
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Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Foreign Policy Communications Division (BCF)

(disponible en français)

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

**Léonard Legault to Head Canadian Delegation
to UN Commission on Human Rights**

January 16, 1995, no. 10

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced the appointment of Léonard Legault as head of the Canadian Delegation to the 51st session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The Commission, which is the primary UN body dealing with international human rights issues, will meet in Geneva from January 30 to March 10, 1995. Mr. Legault is currently Ambassador to the Holy See. He has previously held a number of senior positions in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, including the position of Senior Assistant Deputy-Minister (United States) and Co-ordinator, Free Trade Agreement, and Assistant Deputy-Minister for Legal, Consular and Immigration Affairs. His other postings included Warsaw, New Delhi, Geneva, Lagos and Washington.

**MacLaren Names New Chairpersons and Announces
Revising of Sectoral Advisory Groups**

January 16, 1995, no. 9

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, today appointed new chairpersons and members of the Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGITs), which have been restructured and streamlined to reflect current domestic and international realities. Mr. MacLaren welcomed the chairpersons of the International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC), its task forces and the SAGITs at a meeting in Ottawa. "The SAGITs have provided an invaluable source of input into the formulation of Canadian trade policy, particularly during the trade negotiations of recent years," he said. While the total number of SAGITs will remain at 15, membership has been reduced from an average of 20 to 17 members.

**Canada Accedes to International Patent Classification
Agreement**

January 16, 1995, no. 8

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Industry Minister John Manley today announced that Canada has acceded to the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification (IPC). "Membership in the Agreement provides Canada with the opportunity to join its major trading partners in the ongoing development and maintenance of the international patent classification system and enhances Canada's position in the global intellectual property community," said Mr. Ouellet. The classification of patent documents is essential for the effective retrieval of patent information, and the use of an international classification system facilitates access to global technology. The Strasbourg Agreement will enter into force in Canada in a year's time.

Ouellet to Visit Lebanon and Kuwait

January 13, 1995, no. 7

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet will pay an official visit to Lebanon and Kuwait from January 25 to 28 to hold talks with Lebanese and Kuwaiti authorities and to reopen the Canadian embassy in Beirut. "The reopening of our Beirut embassy marks a turning-point in our relations with Lebanon. It will enable Canada to strengthen its political and economic ties with this country and to play a more effective role in the reconstruction work currently under way there. As for Kuwait, it is an increasingly important economic partner for Canada. We would do well to strengthen our trade relations with this country," said Mr. Ouellet.

STATEMENTS

Now that we (Canada) have committed ourselves first to free trade with Latin America and later to free trade with much of Asia, the continued existence of barriers to trade with Europe seems increasingly anomalous. This is especially true since Europe represents our second-largest trade partnership — a partnership, moreover, defined not simply by the traditional exchange of goods and services but by an increasingly intricate web of transatlantic investment and technology. It is this concern about a possible drifting apart of our two continents that lies behind the Prime Minister's recent challenge to the European Union to consider free trade with NAFTA. Indeed, the goal would not simply be to secure market access but to help build the competitiveness, dynamism and critical mass of the transatlantic economy — in his words, "to re-energize our economic relationship." ... Since we are committed to free trade in the Americas, free trade in APEC and