

**STATEMENTS:**

As we consider the future of the [Trade Commissioner] Service, we must ensure that it provides the support that business people need in a world that has become overwhelmingly complex. Indeed, that is what this conference is all about — to listen to what the business community has to say regarding the need for the Service to change to better address your requirements.... As a result of these consultations, I have already taken some preliminary steps that fall into three broad areas. First, we are undertaking a number of improvements to the way we collect and disseminate market intelligence and market information. We have put into place an electronic Bulletin Board Service that allows exporters access to the latest international market information via a personal computer and a modem. We are also developing a Market Intelligence Messaging System for broadcast faxing of trade opportunities. A second set of measures relates to providing greater cohesion and focus to the support role played by governments. There is a need for better co-ordination of international business development activity, among both federal departments and the provinces.... The third broad set of initiatives we are undertaking is in the area of support for small- and medium-sized enterprises [SME]. From the federal government's point of view, SMEs are a vital national resource, the fastest growing component of the economy, the most knowledge-intensive, the most responsive to rapid change, and the largest creator of new jobs. However, SMEs need to become much more involved in international business if we are to increase our presence in new markets. To that end, we are increasing our focus and adapting our programs toward the needs of SMEs. We are also developing new products.

Notes for an address by the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, to the Trade Commissioner Service Centenary Conference (Toronto, Ontario, September 26, 1994, 94/56)

**CIDA**

**Canada to Help Tanzania Cope With the Impact of Refugee Crisis**

**September 29, 1994, 94-37**

Canada is assisting Tanzania in its efforts to deal with a massive influx of Rwandan refugees, severe drought and a shortfall in food production, Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced. Mr. Ouellet made the announcement following a meeting between Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, who is on an official visit to Canada. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will provide \$2.5 million in emergency food aid to victims of drought in Tanzania through the World Food Programme (WFP). CIDA has also earmarked up to \$2 million to respond to a report on the impact of refugees in Tanzania, recently issued by the Office of the Prime Minister of Tanzania.

**FINANCE**

**Official International Reserves**

**September 29, 1994, 94-089**

The Department of Finance announced that Canada's official international reserves increased by an amount equivalent to US\$940 million during September to \$15 790 million; official government operations increased reserves by \$1 088 million.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Federal Government Toughens Ocean Disposal Legislation**

**October 5, 1994**

Environment Canada, through an amendment to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) Schedule III and regulations on ocean disposal, will further strengthen controls on disposal of wastes at sea. These amendments are necessary to bring Canadian law in line with the London Convention 1972, an International agreement governing disposal at sea. The amendments to CEPA Schedule III regulations will immediately ban the sea disposal of radioactive waste and the sea disposal or incineration at sea of industrial waste. These amendments are consistent with current ocean disposal practices in Canada. Canada has never issued permits for radioactive waste disposal or incineration of industrial wastes at sea. As well, sea disposal of industrial wastes was discontinued in Canada in 1993. The amendments reflect Canada's international treaty obligations, and are consistent with federal sustainable development objectives.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- 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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