

Le commerce et
la politique étrangère
cette semaine

May 5 to May 11, 1994

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

PRESS RELEASES:

MacLaren Announces Trade Mission to Colombia

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced that he will lead a trade mission to Colombia, May 16-19. The visit will support the efforts of Canadian companies pursuing substantial business opportunities in Colombia's telecommunications, oil and gas and transportation sectors. "The Government of Canada recognizes there are growing opportunities for trade and investment in Colombia," Mr. MacLaren said. "We are working to increase market presence for Canadian exports of high technology, value-added products and services." Two-way trade between Canada and Colombia reached a new high of \$395 million in 1993, an increase of 10 percent over 1992.

New Canadian Contribution to UNRWA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that Canada will contribute \$3.62 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). This contribution, which comes from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will support UNRWA's relief and social services program for Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. "Improving the life of Palestinian refugees can contribute directly to the success of the peace process in the Middle East. Canada, which chairs the Refugee Working Group, is a strong supporter of this process," said Mr. Ouellet. This announcement coincides with the meeting, in Cairo, of the Refugee Working Group, held within the framework of the multilateral peace negotiations in the Middle East. This brings to approximately \$210 million Canadian assistance to UNRWA since 1950. Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1994 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

MacLaren and Martin Announce Extension of General Preferential Treatment to South Africa

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, and the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of Finance, announced that Canada will extend the General Preferential Tariff (GPT) to imports from South Africa. "The encouraging results of the multi-party elections, and today's inauguration of President Nelson Mandela, will allow us to further strengthen our bilateral trade relations with the democratically elected Government of South Africa," Mr. MacLaren said. "The extension of GPT status demonstrates our commitment to building stronger economic and commercial ties with South Africans."

ICRC President to Visit Canada

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), will visit Ottawa, May 9-11. During his visit, Dr. Sommaruga will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Minister Ouellet, and Sergio Marchi, Minister for Citizenship and Immigration. Canada is a strong supporter of the ICRC's humanitarian aid activities and goals. Over the last five years, Canada has contributed almost \$93 million in response to the ICRC's emergency appeals.

Ouellet Supports Rwanda Mission by UN Human Rights Official

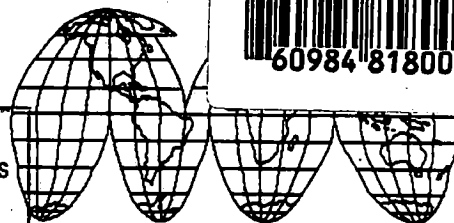
Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet called for a special emergency session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the crisis in Rwanda. This follows the decision of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, to undertake a mission this weekend to Rwanda and Burundi. "Canada supports the High Commissioner's initiative. We believe that the protection of human rights must be central to the UN's response to this terrible tragedy," said Mr. Ouellet.

Canada Welcomes UN Decision to Strengthen Sanctions on Haiti

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet welcomed the passage of a United Nations (UN) Security Council resolution that will impose a comprehensive trade embargo on Haiti. The embargo, which excludes food and medicines for humanitarian purposes, will come into effect on May 21, 1994. "Canada has maintained consistently that a total, universally applied embargo on Haiti is necessary to force the military and *de facto* authorities to step down. I am greatly encouraged by the decision of the Security Council," said Mr. Ouellet. Canada has provided almost \$40 million in humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people since the beginning of the crisis.

Visit of the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Ambassador Madeleine Albright, the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, will make an official visit to Ottawa on May 9. Ambassador Albright will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Minister Ouellet, and officials of the Department of National Defence and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.



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