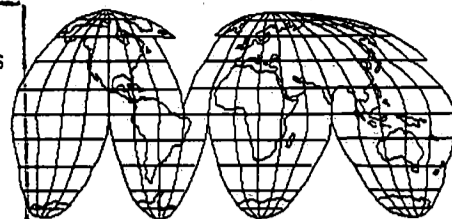


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**Le commerce et  
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Dept. of External Affairs  
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**FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE:  
 PRESS RELEASES:**

**Canada Supports Economic Reform in Latvia**

April 26, 1995, no. 79

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that Canada and Latvia have signed a Foreign Investment Protection Agreement and a Double Taxation Agreement. The agreements were signed by Mr. Ouellet and Latvian Foreign Minister, Dr. Valdis Birkavs, today in Ottawa. "I am delighted to sign the Double Taxation and Foreign Investment Protection agreements, which will help strengthen trade and investment links between our two countries and encourage Canadian companies to pursue promising business opportunities in the emerging markets in Latvia," said Mr. Ouellet. Mr. Ouellet also announced that Canada will contribute \$1.2 million toward two technical assistance initiatives in support of Latvia's transition to a market economy.

**Ouellet to Meet with Commissioner-General of United Nations Agency  
 for Palestine Refugees**

April 25, 1995, no. 78

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that he is meeting with Ilter Türkmen, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Mr. Türkmen is on a three-day visit to Ottawa. "We appreciate the fine work done by UNRWA with Palestinian refugees for more than 45 years," said Mr. Ouellet. "It is our deepest hope that the Refugee Working Group of the multilateral Middle East peace process, which is chaired by Canada, will help improve the living conditions of refugees and help to achieve a comprehensive and viable solution to the refugee issue."

**Latvian Foreign Minister Visits Canada**

April 25, 1995, no. 77

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Dr. Valdis Birkavs, is visiting Ottawa and Toronto, April 25 to 29, 1995. "This is the first visit of a foreign minister from Latvia since its renewed independence. It provides an excellent opportunity to express Canada's support for Latvia's transition to democracy and to a market economy," said Mr. Ouellet. While in Ottawa, Dr. Birkavs will meet with Mr. Ouellet and appear before the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade on April 27. He will open the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia on April 26. Discussions in Ottawa will focus on Latvia's integration into Western financial and economic institutions, technical assistance and regional security.

**Canadian and Mexican Ministers to Gather in Ottawa for 11th  
 Joint Ministerial Committee Meeting**

April 24, 1995, no. 76

Foreign Minister André Ouellet announced that eight ministers from Mexico will join their Canadian counterparts in Ottawa on April 26 and 27 for the 11th meeting of the Canada-Mexico Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC). The JMC meetings began in 1971 and have been held annually since 1990, alternating between the two countries. "The wide range of interests shared by our countries is reflected in the Canadian and Mexican delegations attending this meeting," said Mr. Ouellet. "Canada and Mexico have developed close and strong relations in the area of trade and economic co-operation. We are now strengthening our ties in legal co-operation, transport, agriculture, the environment and natural resources. This is a strong indication of the extent to which the relationship has grown." In addition to sectoral issues, ministers are expected to discuss political and economic co-operation in the hemisphere, including the follow-up on the Summit of the Americas, NAFTA accession, and disarmament and non-proliferation.

**Rwanda: Ouellet Condemns Kibeho Massacres**

April 24, 1995, no. 75

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet vigorously condemned Saturday's charge on the Kibeho camp by the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA), which resulted in some 2000 dead and at least 650 wounded, some of them very seriously. After expressing his revulsion at the news of the massacre, which could have been avoided, the Minister went on to say, "This attack by the soldiers of the RPA very seriously jeopardizes the efforts at national reconciliation both by the Rwandans themselves and by the international community. This violence is totally unacceptable. An inquiry must be launched and the perpetrators identified; and the Rwandan government must take steps to ensure such a slaughter does not recur. I remind the Rwandan authorities that it is their duty to establish a climate of confidence to encourage the return of refugees, in accordance with the commitments they made at the Bujumbura conference on refugees in mid-February. For the time being, I have dispatched Ambassador Dussault to the scene. He will report to me promptly and the Canadian government will make the necessary decisions."