

Both Mr. Ouellet and his Mexican counterpart, José Ángel Gurría recognized the need for ministerial contacts and consultations that will strengthen the relationship in key sectors. To that end, Mr. Ouellet announced that the two governments will establish a binational steering committee, which will produce a declaration that will serve as a framework for the relationship into the next century. The two ministers will review the paper at next year's JMC. Mr. Ouellet noted that Canada and Mexico signed four agreements during this year's JMC: the Agreement on Social Security and the administrative arrangement that would implement that agreement; a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Mexican seasonal agricultural workers in Canada; and an annex to the MOU on Land Transportation that was signed last year, which will address technical assistance and training programs.

CIDA

CIDA Supports Initiative to Help Bosnia-Herzegovina

May 4 1995, 95-07

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is contributing to a project to support educations and freedom of expression in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Martin Cauchon, Member of Parliament for Outremont, announced on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet. "This initiative is a co-operative effort involving several Quebec companies," Mr. Cauchon said. "By supplying paper, Canada helps the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina as they struggle to keep schools and a newspaper working, all under extremely difficult circumstances." The funds will pay for shipment to Bosnia-Herzegovina of more than 22 tons of newsprint for production of school textbooks and Sarajevo's only daily newspaper, *Liberation*.

FINANCE

Canada thinks it particularly appropriate that [the review of international institutions] should be so front and centre at a Summit we will be hosting. Multilateralism and multilateral institutions have always been very important to us. Canadians know it is in their interest that multilateral systems function well and fairly. They also feel strongly that nations large and small must be able to participate in multilateral institutions knowing they are based on principles of equity and co-operation. There have been many words written and spoken on the evolution of the international financial institutions. But when I strip the commentary down to essentials, I find a strong element of support and an overwhelming interest in ensuring continued relevance.... Let me use this occasion to indicate likely themes affecting multilateral development banks. Briefly, I would note the following: the need to refine priorities and to reduce overlap between institutions; the requirement for a sharpened focus on sustainable development practices, poverty-reduction and private sector development; recognition that recipient countries must participate in every sense of the term and that ownership of development priorities is essential; and, the absolute need to channel concessional resources to those who need them most and can use them best and those who show real commitment to poverty reduction as opposed to non-productive investments such as military spending.... Sound development requires full participation and recognizable partnerships. Similarly, institutions designed to promote development must also be partnerships in form and substance. Their sustainable relevance demands that all stockholders be involved. How else can they retain public confidence? Discussion at the Halifax Summit will recognize this essential point.

Notes for an Address by the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of Finance and Governor for Canada to the Development Committee of the World Bank (Washington, D.C., April 27/95)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 17-May 12: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference (New York)
- May 4-6: Quadrilateral Trade Ministers Meeting (Whistler, British Columbia)
- June 5-10: OAS General Assembly (Haiti)
- June 15-17: G-7 Summit (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

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