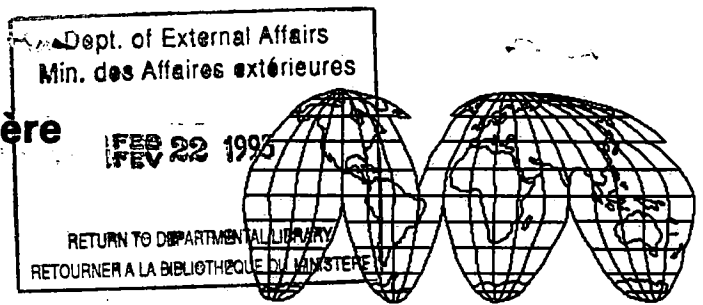


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**Le commerce et
la politique étrangère
cette semaine**



Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Foreign Policy Communications Division (BCF)

(disponible en français)

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

MacLaren Releases Canada's Export Strategy for 1995-96

February 15, 1995, no. 27

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, released Canada's Export Strategy for 1995-96. Known as the *International Trade Business Plan (ITBP)*, the document lays out government strategies and activities in support of international business development. "This Business Plan is more than just a document; it is a process that makes government more efficient and focussed in the delivery of Canada's export strategies and activities," Mr. MacLaren said. "At the same time, it enables the private sector to influence the development of those strategies and become involved in the proposed activities."

Secretary of State Stewart to Lead Mission to Rwanda and Burundi

February 13, 1995, no. 26

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced that Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will visit Rwanda and then head the Canadian delegation to the Conference on Refugees in Central Africa to be held in Bujumbura, Burundi, February 15-17. Mrs. Stewart is the first high-level Canadian representative to travel to Central Africa since the tragic events of last spring. Her visit underscores the need for preventive diplomacy, as stated in the Government's recent foreign policy statement, to further peace and security in the region. Mrs. Stewart will report to Mr. Ouellet on the findings of her trip upon her return.

**Canada Requests NAFTA Consultations with the United States
Concerning Trade Restrictions Affecting Canadian Sugar Exports**

February 10, 1995, no. 25

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, and the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food, announced that the Government of Canada has requested North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) consultations with the United States concerning trade restrictions affecting Canadian exports of refined sugar and sugar-containing products. "We have concerns with a number of measures taken by the United States which have reduced Canada's access to the U.S. market for sugar and sugar-containing products," said Mr. Goodale. "We are therefore availing ourselves of the NAFTA provisions to consult with the United States in this regard," added Mr. MacLaren.

Ouellet Appoints New Press Secretary

February 9, 1995, no. 23

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet appointed Yves Brodeur as Press Secretary, effective February 20. Mr. Brodeur replaces Robert Peck, who has been posted to the Canadian Embassy in Athens, Greece. A native of Montreal, Mr. Brodeur is a graduate of Laval University. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1982 and has served abroad at the Canadian Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, and with the Canadian Delegation to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France. At headquarters, Mr. Brodeur has held a variety of positions, including that of Executive Assistant to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. Prior to his appointment as Press Secretary, Mr. Brodeur was a Foreign Policy Advisor at the Privy Council Office.

STATEMENTS

The [strategic renewal of the] Federal Office of Regional Development-Quebec aims at a single major objective: helping our regional entrepreneurs attain their full development potential in the context of the new global economy....This direction is based on two simple facts: for more than 15 years SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises], have created, in Quebec and in Canada as a whole, about 80 per cent of new jobs each year. Furthermore, in order to survive and prosper, SMEs must latch on to the globalization of markets....Our country's prosperity and growth depend on our ability to innovate. Forum participants are well aware that the future economic growth of Quebec and Canada is tied to our ability to innovate and make use of leading-edge technology....In the area of market development, the Government of Canada's goal is to provide entrepreneurs with the tools they need to succeed in a new global context. The establishment of the new World Trade Organization, the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] and interprovincial trade agreements have opened up new opportunities and challenges that require us to adapt....In future years, we must spare no