

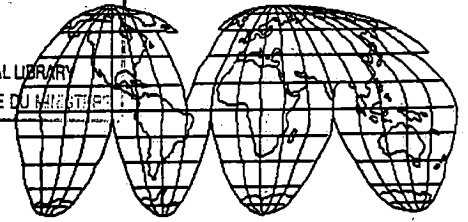
**Le commerce et
la politique étrangère
cette semaine**

December 15- 21, 1994

Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures

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

(disponible en français)

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

Canada Signs Convention on the Safety of UN and Associated Personnel

December 15, 1994, no. 246

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Defence Minister David Collenette today congratulated the United Nations General Assembly on the adoption of the Convention on the Safety of UN and Associated Personnel. "Today's conflicts are generating unprecedented casualties among UN personnel. The signing of this Convention signals the international community's concern for those courageous men and women who risk their lives on behalf of peace," said Mr. Ouellet. "Canadians have long played a significant role in UN operations. I welcome the signing of this Convention, which recognizes the value of the contribution of our peacekeepers and the need to provide them with a measure of security during the course of their duties," said Mr. Collenette.

Ouellet Welcomes Canadian Appointments to OAS

December 15, 1994, no. 247

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today welcomed the appointment of two Canadians to the Organization of American States (OAS). The appointments were announced yesterday by OAS Secretary-General César Gaviria. Elizabeth Spehar was appointed Executive Co-ordinator of the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy. Currently Head of the Americas Program at the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development in Montreal, Ms. Spehar will take up her new duties in Washington on January 23, 1995. The Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, originally a Canadian proposal, was created in 1990. It is the primary instrument for regional efforts to consolidate democratic gains in the hemisphere through election monitoring and assistance programs to strengthen electoral and legislative institutions and processes, and civic education to promote democratic values. Hélène Laverdière, now at the Canadian Mission to the OAS, has been appointed Director of the Department of Human Resources. She will take up her new duties in mid-January. As Director, Ms. Laverdière will be responsible for all personnel management systems, including staffing, contracting, classification, compensation and evaluation for an OAS staff of over 600 people. "Canada welcomes the opportunity to make continued contributions to the effectiveness of the OAS, in areas as diverse but important as democratic development and human resource management," said Mr. Ouellet. "These appointments are part of a series of ongoing measures designed to give Canada a stronger and more visible role in this organization."

MacLaren Welcomes U.S. Announcement of a Full Refund of Softwood Lumber Duties

December 15, 1994, no. 248

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, welcomed today's announcement by the U.S. government that there will be a full refund with interest of the estimated \$800 million in interim duties collected on Canadian softwood lumber. The completion of the refund process will give full effect to the outcome of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) binational softwood panel review. "With this U.S. action, we can now put this case behind us. The close co-operation and teamwork among industry, the federal and provincial governments throughout this difficult case is largely responsible for this satisfactory result," Mr. MacLaren stated. "The resources spent in litigating this case would have been better focussed on the many forestry issues common to both countries."

Canada Set to Join the World Trade Organization on January 1, 1995

December 15, 1994, no. 249

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, today welcomed Royal Assent of Bill C-57, *An Act to Implement the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization*. "Canada is now in a position to play a full and dynamic role in the new World Trade Organization (WTO) when it comes into force on January 1, 1995," Mr. MacLaren said. "Canada was proud to propose the establishment of the WTO in the Uruguay Round negotiations," Mr. MacLaren added. "It will provide a strong foundation for the future expansion of trade and investment, generating jobs and growth in Canada and around the world."

MacLaren Appoints New Board Members to EDC (Export Development Corporation)

December 21, 1994, no. 250

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, today announced the appointment, effective immediately, of Dorothy E. Byrne, M. Jane Martin and James A. Pattillo to the board of directors of EDC (Export Development Corporation). They will serve three-year terms. Dorothy E. Byrne of Vancouver, B.C. is