

that the economic-co-operation agreement "constitutes for us a contribution to development and peace".

The project is being co-financed by Italy, France, Nicaragua and Canada, and is being co-ordinated by the Inter-American Development Bank. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$64 million (Cdn).

Co-operation with El Salvador

In meetings between Mrs. Vézina and President José Napoleon Duarte and members of his government in El Salvador, June 7-8, challenges facing El Salvador and ways in which Canada can assist current Salvadoran efforts through a program of co-operation were examined. Both delegations explored the possibilities of increasing commercial exchanges between the two countries.

On June 7, Mrs. Vézina transmitted a letter of intent to President Duarte informing him of the resumption of Canadian bilateral assistance in El Salvador. Initially, the program will begin with a line of credit valued at \$8 million, which will be used to create a special fund in local currency. This fund will be used to finance projects for persons displaced by the war and for other groups in need. In addition, Mrs. Vézina confirmed financial support for the many volunteer organizations working with these target groups.

Some Canadian development projects in the Chalatenango area and a centre for displaced persons in the district of San Martin San Salvador were visited by Mrs. Vézina. She also met with the Archbishop of San Salvador, the most reverend Rivera Y. Damas.

Embassy closes in Beirut

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark recently announced the government's decision to withdraw provisionally all Canadian staff from the embassy in Beirut. The ambassador, Jacques Noiseux, together with his personnel, left Lebanon on June 14.

Canada's essential interests in Lebanon are now the responsibility, on an interim basis, of the Canadian embassy in Jordan.

In the announcement, Mr. Clark emphasized that the decision had been taken only after very careful consideration of the serious risks to which Canadian staff were exposed by keeping the embassy operating, given the difficult conditions which prevail in Lebanon. He stressed that Canada would continue to strongly support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon, and the well-being of its people and will persist in encouraging all appropriate international efforts to bring to a conclusion the recurrent violence in Lebanon.

International trade talks set for Canada

Minister for International Trade James F. Kelleher will host a quadrilateral trade ministers meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario from July 11-14. It will be the second meeting this year of the ministers responsible for trade of the quadrilateral group, which includes the European Community, Japan, the US, and Canada. The previous meeting was held in Kyoto, Japan in early February.



James Kelleher

Participants will include US Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter, Commission of the European Communities responsible for External Relations member Willy de Clercq, and Japan's Minister for International Trade and Industry Keijiro Murata. They will review the international trading situation and the issues involved as well as the preparations for the new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade round of the multilateral trade negotiations, including the timing, objectives, substance and modalities for the negotiations.

Ministers responsible for international trade of the United States, the European Community, Japan and Canada have met regularly since 1982.

Increase in March 1985 retail trade over the 1984 figure

Total retail trade, not seasonally adjusted, by Canadian business recorded an increase of 8.8 per cent in March 1985 over that of the same month in 1984 to \$9 971.9 million. The following table includes the kind of businesses and their March comparisons as surveyed by Statistics Canada:

Kind of business	Sales all stores		
	March '84 (revised)	March '85 (preliminary)	March '85/ March '84 per cent
	(\$ millions)		
Combination stores (groceries and meat)	1 975.5	2 003.9	1.4
Grocery, confectionery and sundries	446.8	487.2	9.0
All other food stores	162.9	183.3	12.5
Department stores	807.0	849.1	5.2
General merchandise stores	178.2	188.8	5.9
General stores	147.2	149.6	1.6
Variety stores	79.5	90.1	13.3
Motor vehicle dealers	1 826.3	2 205.6	20.7
Used car dealers	45.0	55.5	23.2
Service stations	761.6	850.5	11.6
Garages	123.8	126.7	2.4
Automotive parts and accessories stores	169.0	172.8	2.2
Men's clothing stores	83.5	92.7	11.1
Women's clothing stores	169.6	197.3	16.3
Family clothing stores	112.1	122.9	9.6
Specialty shoe stores	10.4	12.8	23.2
Family shoe stores	64.4	71.6	11.2
Hardware stores	64.4	72.7	12.9
Household furniture stores	136.7	140.8	3.0
Household appliance stores	34.2	40.7	18.9
Furniture, TV, radio and appliance stores	61.6	67.9	10.1
Pharmacies, patent medicine, cosmetics	375.5	407.0	8.3
Book and stationery stores	39.8	45.0	12.9
Florists	31.9	33.8	6.1
Jewellery stores	47.6	50.4	5.9
Sporting goods and accessories stores	115.1	117.6	2.1
Personal accessories stores	110.2	117.3	6.5
All other stores	985.2	1 018.3	3.3
Total, all stores	9 165.0	9 971.9	8.8