June 24 to July 7, 1993

PRESS RELEASES:

Third Round of Early Tariff Cuts Under FTA Implemented July 1

July 5, 1993, No. 141

The Honourable Tom Hockin, Minister for International Trade, and the Honourable Gilles Loiselle, Minister of Finance, announced that the third round of the accelerated elimination of certain Canadian and U.S. tariffs went into effect on July 1, 1993. This round of early tariff removals under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) eliminates tariffs on over 300 specific products on each side, worth about \$1 billion in two-way trade. Products of particular interest to Canadian exporters include engine parts, denim fabrics, certain alcoholic beverages, yarns and staple fibres. "The response by Canadian and U.S. companies to the accelerated elimination of tariffs under the FTA has been very positive," said Minister Hockin. "The fact that these companies are willing to cut tariffs faster than what was scheduled under the FTA shows a keen interest in making their industries more competitive."

Canada Welcomes Breakthrough Agreement on Haiti

July 4, 1993, No. 140

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty welcomed the breakthrough agreement to restore democracy in Haiti that was reached July 3, 1993 in New York under the aegis of the United Nations and Organization of American States Special Representative for Haiti, Dante Caputo. "Canada has long been involved in the search for a solution to the crisis in Haiti and in efforts to restore Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to his rightful place as the democratically elected leader of that country," said Mr. Beatty. "This agreement paves the way for the return of President Aristide, the creation of a civilian police force and the rebuilding of the devastated Haitian economy ... Mr. Caputo deserves credit for his dedication and perseverance in pursuing these negotiations."

Beatty Welcomes Progress in South African Negotiations

July 2, 1993, No. 139

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty welcomed the decision by the multiparty Negotiating Forum in South Africa that the first non-racial elections would be held April 27, 1994. The parties are now working on the formation of a multiracial Transitional Executive Council, as well as the structure and principles for the government that would be elected in 1994. "The setting of an election date is a key milestone in the constitutional negotiations in South Africa," said Mr. Beatty. "We urge all parties to move quickly, and in a spirit of compromise, to agree on the outstanding issues. Once there is agreement, or should parties call for it, Canada will respond positively and lift economic sanctions." Canadian sanctions against South Africa will be lifted in accordance with a Commonwealth policy agreed at the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in October 1991. The policy was recommended to the CHOGM by the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa, which has been chaired by Canada since it was established in 1987.

Canadian to Lead United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda

July 2, 1993, No. 138

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty and Minister of National Defence Tom Siddon announced that Canada has agreed to a request from the United Nations Secretary-General to provide a Canadian to head the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR). Canadian Forces Brigadier-General Romeo Dallaire will serve as the Chief Military Observer of the new UN operation. He will oversee an international staff of 81 military observers, plus international and local civilian support staff. The mandate of UNOMUR is to verify that no military supplies are crossing the Uganda-Rwanda border, destined for the Rwandese Patriotic Front. "Brigadier-General Dallaire's leadership will aid the international community in ensuring that the situation in Rwanda remains stable while both sides work toward a peaceful solution," said Mr. Siddon. "Tens of thousands have died and up to one million others have been displaced in the civil war in Rwanda," said Mr. Beatty. "Canada is pleased to make this important contribution to UNOMUR and its work in ending this tragedy," Mr. Beatty added. UNOMUR will be based in Uganda and has an initial mandate of six months.