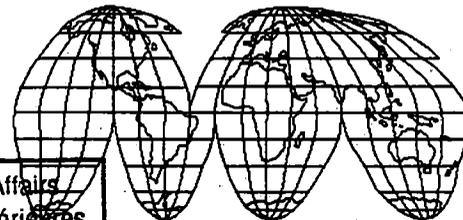


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February 17-23, 1994

Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires extérieures

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE:

PRESS RELEASES:

Co-Chairs Announced for National Forum on Canada's
International Relations*February 23, 1994, No. 30*

University of Toronto professor Janice Gross Stein and Montréal business executive Pierre S. Pettigrew will act as co-chairpersons of the first annual National Forum on Canada's International Relations to be held March 21-22, 1994, at the Government's Conference Centre in Ottawa. The purpose of the Forum, which was promised prior to the 1993 Election, is to provide an opportunity for Canadians to consider the implications of the rapidly changing international and domestic environments as they affect foreign affairs, and to offer views on the impact these changes should have on Canada's policy priorities. Some 120 people from a number of backgrounds and with involvement in business, labour, academic, non-governmental organizations, Aboriginal affairs and the media are expected to participate in this first Forum. They have been invited in a personal capacity on the basis of their knowledge and experience. The National Forum, which will be held annually, is an important dimension of the foreign policy review process initiated by the Government.

Canadian Troops to Serve as Trainers for the Cambodia
Mine Action Centre*February 22, 1994, No. 29*

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Minister of National Defence David Collenette today announced that Canada will send 12 Canadian Forces personnel to Cambodia to provide training and administrative support to the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC). The personnel will be provided through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which is co-ordinating international support for demining operations in Cambodia. The Canadians will constitute half of the 25-member international technical advisory group to the CMAC. "Cambodia has the worst problem of uncleared landmines in the world. Agriculture is impossible because of mines littered in farmland. Trade is being strangled by mined roads. I'm proud of this Canadian effort to train Cambodians so that they can overcome this most serious obstacle to the country's development," said Mr. Ouellet.

Ouellet Announces Delegation to Canada-Mexico
Joint Ministerial Committee*February 22, 1994, No. 28*

A delegation of ministers led by Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet will travel to Mexico City for wide-ranging consultations March 1 with Mexican counterparts in the annual Canada-Mexico Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC). The JMC meetings began in 1971 and have been held annually in recent years, alternating between the two countries. "These meetings provide a means of regular, in-depth contact between ministers of both countries across a broad spectrum of mutual interests," said Mr. Ouellet. "As our relationship with Mexico has grown -- be it on trade, joint hemispheric interests, agricultural or environmental co-operation, human rights or the strengthening of democracy -- these sessions have become increasingly important to both Canada and Mexico."

Canada Urges all Parties in South Africa
to Participate in Elections*February 18, 1994, No. 27*

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today called on all political parties in South Africa to work constructively toward peaceful democratic change. "Canada urges all parties in South Africa to participate in the elections, and to ensure that all South Africans have the opportunity to exercise their democratic rights freely and peacefully. Political leaders must understand that the promotion of a particular interest or point of view is best undertaken from within the electoral process," said Mr. Ouellet.

TREASURY BOARD OF CANADA:

Eggleton says Wage Freeze Will Save Jobs*February 22, 1994*

The Budget measure to freeze Public Service pay at current levels for up to two more years will yield savings in operating costs of close to \$1 billion in 1996-1997 and preserve jobs, said Treasury Board president Art Eggleton. Mr. Eggleton said that along with savings of \$940 million in 1996-1997, the freeze will save \$50 million in 1994-1995 and \$510 million in 1995-1996 -- a total of \$1.5 billion over the three-year period. The government had to control operating expenses as part of the drive to deal with the federal deficit, the Minister said. Salaries account for a major portion of operating costs. "The deficit is everybody's problem, so the Public Service has to be part of the solution. The government wrestled with various ways of curtailing operating costs. Freezing salaries will allow us to contain costs without jeopardizing jobs." The government remains committed to a high level of employment security for federal Public Service employees, ensuring no employee will be laid off without first getting a reasonable job offer, Mr. Eggleton said. Surplus employees must be ready to move or be retrained if necessary. Salaries will be held at existing levels for all Public Service employees for up to two years beyond the current wage restraint legislation. The current freeze was due to end in 1995. It will now be extended to 1997. Annual salary increases normally given to employees who are not at the maximum of their salary range will also be frozen. The government will initiate a review of its operations to generate efficiency savings and to reduce overlap and duplication, including reducing or eliminating programs that are no longer a