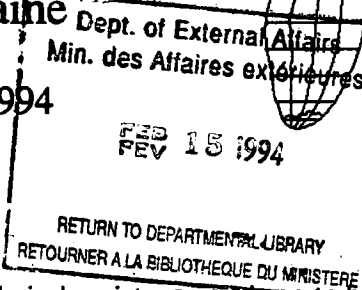


This Week Le commerce et
International Trade and la politique étrangère
Foreign Policy cette semaine

January 27- February 2, 1994



PRESS RELEASES:

Canada to Assist Ukrainian Elections

February 2, 1994, No. 17

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet announced a technical assistance package to help Ukraine organize and conduct its first democratic parliamentary elections, March 27. The \$2.5-million Canadian initiative is the largest and most comprehensive among international donors. "These first-ever multiparty elections in Ukraine are of particular interest to Canada since so many Canadians have family and historical ties to the region. We welcome this clear move toward a democratic, pluralist political system and we are committed to helping Ukrainians ensure that this vote is conducted fairly and openly," Mr. Ouellet said.

MacLaren Encourages Efforts to Boost Canadian Education Exports in the Asia-Pacific Region

January 31, 1994, No. 16

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, said that Canada must step up efforts to promote its high-quality educational products and services in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. MacLaren was responding to a study released today by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade that highlighted the important political and economic benefits generated by international students in this country. This includes an estimated \$1.5-billion-a-year contribution to the Canadian economy, accounting for 19 000 jobs for Canadians. "We must heed the wake-up call," said Mr. MacLaren. "International education represents a vital opportunity for Canada to become better known to the next generation of Asian decision-makers. The economies of the region are the fastest growing in the world. Canada's economic growth and competitiveness increasingly will be linked to this region." In this context, Mr. MacLaren also announced that his department will sponsor a conference on Canadian education and the Asia-Pacific region in Vancouver from March 9 to 11. Canadian Education and the Asia-Pacific Region: A Vision for the Future will invite representatives of federal and provincial governments, academic institutions, education associations and non-government organizations to develop a five-year strategy for marketing educational products and services in the Asia-Pacific region. Copies of the education marketing study, *International Education: The Asia Pacific Region and Canada*, can be obtained by calling InfoEx at 1-800-267-8376 or, in the National Capital region, at 944-4000.

MacLaren Welcomes FTA Injury Panel Decision on Softwood Lumber

January 28, 1994, No. 15

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, noted with satisfaction the ruling of a Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) binational panel that Canadian softwood lumber imports do not cause injury to the U.S. domestic industry. The Panel upheld its July 26, 1993, ruling and rejected the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) determination of October 18, 1993, that there was evidence of injury to the U.S. industry. "This is a welcome and important development in this long and costly dispute," Mr. MacLaren said. "Two FTA panels have now upheld their earlier rulings that Canadian programs do not confer countervailable subsidies and that Canadian softwood lumber imports do not injure the U.S. domestic industry."

Canadian Named to South African Electoral Commission

January 28, 1994, No. 14

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, Jean-Pierre Kingsley, announced that the Transitional Executive Council of South Africa has chosen Ron Gould of Elections Canada to be one of five international members of South Africa's Independent Electoral Commission. "Mr. Gould's appointment is an honour that reflects well on Canada and further illustrates our commitment to the democratic evolution of South Africa. Canada recently announced the allocation of \$2.5 million to support voter education programs, preparations for the election, and election monitors and observers. Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart will visit South Africa later this week to discuss election plans with South African leaders," said Mr. Ouellet.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE CANADA:

Extension of the General Preferential Tariff

January 31, 1994, No. 94-011

The Honourable Douglas Peters, Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions), tabled, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Paul Martin, legislation in the House of Commons to extend Canada's General Preferential Tariff (GPT) scheme for developing countries for a ten year period beyond its expiry date of June 30, 1994. He also announced that, with the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations being concluded, a review of the scope of the GPT will be undertaken. The proposed extension of the GPT to the year 2004 reflects the federal government's commitment to lowering import barriers and encouraging economic growth in the developing world. Under the GPT scheme, over 180 developing countries and territories are entitled to lower Canadian tariffs on a wide range of products. This favourable access to the Canadian market helps them develop the export sectors of their own economies. At the same time, Canadian consumers benefit from lower prices and Canadian producers have access to more competitively priced inputs. Canada's GPT program was first established in 1974. Similar programs of preferential tariff treatment for developing nations were introduced by all the major industrialized countries in the early 1970's.

STATEMENTS:

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of today's debate is to provide Members of this House with the opportunity to express their views with regard to the budget. This debate is unusual. In the past, MPs were not part of the budget making process. Yes, budgets were tabled here, and debated, and voted upon. But, there was little opportunity for MPs to influence content. On all sides, the focus was on scoring points for the Party rather than for the country. Mr. Speaker, we believe that process was deeply flawed.... How do we get the deficit down? Let me frame the challenge. We could fire every public servant, discharge every soldier, and board up every government building - shut the whole show down - and we would still have a deficit. We could abandon all of the major programs we have in place to help the elderly and all the U.I. payments that assist the unemployed --