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CANADA-KOREA SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP REPORT

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Han Sung-Joo, met in New York today to receive the Report of the Canada-Korea Special Partnership Working Group.

The Working Group was established during the visit to Seoul of Minister for International Trade Roy MacLaren on April 1, 1994; it was a follow-up to a commitment made by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and President Kim Young Sam at the November 1993 summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum to give priority to developing a special partnership between the two countries. The leaders of both governments shared the view that the two countries, as middle powers in the Asia-Pacific region, should co-operate closely with each other, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to cope more effectively with a new international economic environment.

Consistent with the original mandate of the Working Group, the Report recommends various action plans in the area of market access, technology development, official development assistance, investment promotion and joint ventures, as well as joint collaboration in various international fora, such as the World Trade Organization, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and APEC.

Mr. Ouellet and Mr. Han expect that the implementation of the proposed action plans contained in the Report will lead to a stronger economic, trade and investment partnership between Canada and Korea.

The two ministers concurred that a fullfledged special partnership between the two countries should include co-operation in non-economic areas as well. In this regard, they approved the Report's recommendation that the duration of Working Group's activities be extended and its mandate be expanded to explore options for joint collaboration in non-economic areas in both bilateral and multilateral contexts.

Mr. Ouellet and Mr. Han agreed to meet again as early as possible in 1995 to discuss overall bilateral relations under the theme of the special partnership.

Mr. MacLaren and his Korean counterpart, Mr. Chulsu Kim, will review in detail the recommendations of the Report when they meet at the APEC Trade Minister's meeting in Jakarta on October 6, 1994.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874