

News Release

December 27, 1995

No. 238

MACLAREN TO PROMOTE CANADIAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ASIA AND EUROPE

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, will visit Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, January 4-9; join Prime Minister Chrétien and the Team Canada mission to India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia, January 9-20; and travel to the United Kingdom and Italy, January 21-26.

On his way to Asia, Mr. MacLaren will hold high-level talks on bilateral trade and investment matters and he will support the marketing efforts of Canadian companies with business interests in Jordan and in the United Arab Emirates.

"The Middle-East is changing rapidly. It is an important market for several Canadian companies, namely in the energy, aerospace and telecommunications sectors, and we are moving quickly to increase the presence of Canadian firms in that region."

Mr. MacLaren will then join Prime Minister Chrétien, Team Canada and the members of the Canadian business delegation on their mission to India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia.

"These countries have substantial and growing middle classes, and economic growth rates surpassing Canada's own. They are also undertaking serious trade and economic liberalizing reforms," said Mr. MacLaren. "Team Canada will show Canada's commitment to developing long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships in the region at a time when the competition for these markets is fierce."

Mr. MacLaren will then travel to the United Kingdom and Italy to further Canadian trade and investment interests, and to pursue the dialogue with senior government and business representatives on strengthening transatlantic economic relations.

In Edinburgh on January 21, he will meet members of the Scottish financial community, and in London on January 23, he will address



the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce as well as meet the Right Honourable Ian Lang, British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Mr. MacLaren will be in Rome on January 25 to meet ministers responsible for foreign affairs and trade to discuss strategies aimed at strengthening Canada's economic ties with Italy and with the European Union.

"As Italy assumes the presidency of the European Union on January 1, 1996, I will take this opportunity to further exchange views on the prospects for further trade and investment liberalization across the Atlantic. The European Union and Canada have made good progress in resolving long-standing trade irritants. We must now develop an ambitious agenda to further liberalize the flow of trade and investment between us," said Mr. MacLaren.

The Minister will chair round tables on investment, joint ventures and strategic alliances with representatives of the Italian business community in Rome on January 25 and in Milan on January 26.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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