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MACLAREN HOLDS TRADE AND ECONOMIC TALKS IN VISIT TO JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, will promote stronger trade and investment partnership with Japan, Australia and New Zealand when he visits the three countries from February 26 to March 17, 1995.

In Japan, Mr. MacLaren will meet International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and other senior ministers. In meetings with Japanese ministers, he will press for continued market-opening measures through domestic deregulation. He will also discuss the agenda for the next Quadrilateral Ministers Meeting which he will chair in Canada in May and he will review plans for the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) leaders meeting to be held in Osaka in November.

Mr. MacLaren will meet current and potential Japanese investors in Canada and will brief financial markets on the Canadian economic outlook and Canada's fiscal policies outlined in the February 27 budget. He will speak to the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Tokyo.

APEC and its future development will also be prominent on Mr. MacLaren's agenda for his visit to Australia and New Zealand.

Taking place on the occasion of the centenary of Canada's Trade Commissioner Service, which also coincides with the centenary of official Canada-Australia trade relations, Mr. MacLaren's visit to Australia will promote Canada-Australia co-operation and the expansion of two-way trade and investment.

"Australia and Canada are celebrating 100 years of formal trade relations," Mr. MacLaren said, noting that the first Canadian trade commissioner appointed to serve abroad arrived in Sydney, Australia, in 1895. "Canada wants to build on the successful commercial ties that have served the interest of both Canada and Australia over the years. Both countries can contribute to each other's prosperity for the century to come."



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Mr. MacLaren will meet Australian Trade Minister Bob McMullan, Defence Minister Robert Ray and Canadian and Australian business people. He will also speak to business and general audiences in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra.

Mr. MacLaren will be pursuing similar objectives in New Zealand where he will meet with Prime Minister Jim Bolger, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Don McKinnon, Minister of Trade Negotiations Philip Burdon and Business Development Minister Roger Maxwell.

"Canada and New Zealand have a healthy, long-standing economic relationship. We wish to build on its strengths," Mr. MacLaren said. "In addition to existing trade in agricultural and manufactured goods, we can enhance trade and investment flows in such areas as telecommunications, informatics and environmental services."

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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