

## Canada, Italy sign agreements during visit of Italian Prime Minister

A social security agreement, a pact on double taxation and an exchange of letters regarding the future possibility of Candu reactors being built in Italy were signed during the first visit of an Italian Prime Minister to Canada since 1955.

Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, accompanied by Mrs. Andreotti and several senior members of the Italian Government, who were welcomed in Toronto by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and a large crowd of Italian-Canadians on November 16, also visited Ottawa, Quebec City and Montreal during their five days in Canada. They were accompanied by Italian Ambassador Giorgio Smoquina and his wife, and Canadian Ambassador to Italy, d'Iberville Fortier. From the airport, the guests went to Montecassino Place in Toronto, where many Italian-Canadians had assembled to greet them.

### Social security agreement

The social security pact, signed by the two prime ministers on November 17, will enable residents of both countries to combine credits from each country to qualify for social security benefits from one or both countries. When the accord is ratified by both governments, several thousand former Italian residents, living in Canada, will be entitled to receive Italian pensions in Canada, based on the partial credits earned through contributions paid to compulsory Italian programs while they worked in Italy. Furthermore, an estimated 4,500 former Italian residents may be entitled to partial Canadian old age security benefits. In addition, disability and survivors' benefits under the Canada Pension Plan will be available to former Italian residents who qualify under the agreement. Likewise, a number of former Canadian residents now living in Italy will also benefit from the agreement.

This is the first international agreement reached by Canada following changes to the Old Age Security Act effective July 1, 1977, which make such agreements possible. It will co-ordinate the operation of the Canada Pension Plan and the Old Age Security Act in Canada with those general compulsory social security programs in Italy which are concerned with old age, invalidity, survivors' and tuberculosis benefits.

Before Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Andreotti

signed the financial agreement on double taxation, and the social security pact, they held discussions for nearly two hours on November 17. In the wake of the Economic Summit in London last May, they spoke particularly of the world economic situation and the problem of unemployment of young people in their two countries. They also discussed the North-South conference and East-West relations.

The Italian visitors met with Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon in Toronto, with Premier William Davis and provincial ministers, as well as visiting the City Hall and the Ontario Legislature.

Mr. Andreotti discussed with Employment Minister Bud Cullen, Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin and Multiculturalism Minister Norman Cafik several bilateral questions concerning the Italian-Canadian community. A state dinner given by Mr. Trudeau for the visitors was attended by some 1,800 guests.

### Visit to the capital

In Ottawa, the Italian Prime Minister was welcomed by Speaker of the Senate

Renaude Lapointe and Acting Speaker of the House of Commons, Gérald Laniel, at Parliament Buildings. He was present briefly for question period in the House of Commons and at a special joint meeting of both committees of the House of Commons and the Senate on external affairs and national defence — a first in the history of visits by foreign dignitaries. Mr. Andreotti also laid a wreath at the national cenotaph.

At Government House, Governor-General Jules Léger and Mrs. Léger were hosts at a lunch in honour of the Italian guests. Discussions with Mr. Trudeau at a working session which followed, included industrial co-operation, defence procurements and cultural relations. Finance Minister Jean Chrétien and Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Alastair Gillespie discussed world and domestic economy, and nuclear energy matters with Mr. Andreotti.

The exchange of letters signed by the Italian Ambassador and Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs Roméo Leblanc, allows for a temporary arrangement for the transfer of technology to facilitate the presentation of bids by Italian companies for the possible construction of Candu reactors in Italy.

Mr. Andreotti visited Ottawa City Hall,



Agreements signed, Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti of Italy (left) and Prime Minister Trudeau shake hands in Toronto, November 17.