

without prior consultation with the Portuguese government, raised a protest from that government which expressed "deep concern." Portugal considered the handling of the appointment a breach of diplomatic protocol, which traditionally calls for advance notice before any announcement is made (*The Citizen*, July 12).

Following a complaint lodged by Portugal's Ambassador to Canada Luis Navega, the Department of External Affairs issued an apology for the "departure from international precedent." Prime Minister Turner indicated that the selection had been made by his predecessor, and that he had been unaware that the customary prior consultation had not, in fact, taken place (*The Citizen*, July 13). The apology was issued both in the form of a verbal communication and an unpublished diplomatic note (Department of External Affairs, Spanish desk, telephone interview).

The Prime Minister issued a firm denial that he intended to postpone or cancel the appointment, stating that "if the Portuguese agree to his serving as our ambassador, he will be our ambassador." He indicated at that time that he planned no reconsideration of the case, maintaining that Mr. Mackasey was "our candidate" (*The Citizen*, July 16).

ROMANIA

Nuclear Contract

The Canadian firm of Bingham Willamette, British Columbia, was awarded a contract of \$31 million by Romania to supply heat transport pumps and shut down cooling pumps for that country's Cernavoda nuclear power facility. In making the announcement June 29, then-International Trade Minister Gerald Regan noted that several other Canadian firms had been successful in obtaining contracts for the same CANDU nuclear project (see "International Canada — Romania, December 1983 and January 1984). The sale was financed by the Export Development Corporation (EDC) under a loan granted to the Romanian Bank for Foreign Trade, a loan which covered the sale of two CANDU nuclear power stations by Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. to Romania. The contract is scheduled for completion in the course of 1987 and 1988 (Department of External Affairs communiqué, June 29).

SOUTH AFRICA

Namibian Administration

An offer by South Africa to withdraw from Namibia if Western governments were willing to take over that territory's administration and defence was rejected by the Canadian government (along with the United States and the South-West Africa People's Organization). South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha, who himself had indicated that the West was unlikely to accept the offer, was answered by a statement from the Department of External Affairs which pledged a Canadian willingness to "play a helpful part in implementing the United Nations independence plan for Namibia that is accepted by all the parties in the dispute." Canada, the United States, West Germany, Britain and France form a "contact group" working toward a negotiated settlement in Namibia. It was this group to which Prime

Minister Botha addressed his offer. The Canadian statement continued, "We see no advantage in replacing the illegal colonial administration of South Africa by another form of outside rule whose legitimacy would not be accepted by the Namibians themselves or by the international community" (*The Citizen*, June 7).

THAILAND

Refugee Aid

Secretary of State for External Affairs Jean Chrétien announced July 12 that Canada would extend \$2 million in refugee aid to Thailand. The funds were to be divided between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Border Relief Operation, and would be provided by CIDA through its International Humanitarian Assistance Program. The aid would be used both for relief in border areas and for holding camps within Thailand. In the former, an estimated 220,000 Cambodians would receive food, medical assistance and shelter; in the latter, another 128,000 refugees would receive basic facilities prior to repatriation or resettlement, according to a CIDA news release of July 12. The aid was intended to assist in relieving the financial burden placed on Thailand by the massive influx of refugees (estimated at roughly 800,000) resulting from the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia which began in 1978.

TURKEY

Telecommunications Sale

In support of a sale by the Canadian firm of Northern Telecom International Limited of Ontario to Turkey, the Export Development Corporation (EDC) signed a \$US68 million agreement with the Republic of Turkey. The telecommunications equipments supply contract involves the supply of digital switching equipment, telephone sets and related technical services, and forms the first phase in a five-year contract previously negotiated between Northern Telecom International (directing the parent company's international marketing and manufacturing operations) and Turkey's General Directorate of Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration (a government-owned enterprise responsible for the operation of the Turkish telecommunications system). The signing was attended by Turkish Ambassador Ozdemir Benler, Treasury Deputy Director General Erol Hurbas and General Directorate Finance Director and General Manager Emin Heral (EDC news release, July 3).

UNITED KINGDOM

Canada-United Kingdom Convention

Legislation was tabled in the House of Commons in late June to implement the Canada-United Kingdom Civil and Commercial Convention Act (signed in Ottawa on April 24, 1984). The Convention, according to a Ministry of Justice news release June 26, "simplifies the existing pro-