

Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as a breach of the principles of the United Nations Charter and a violation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of a U.N. member. Canada called once more for the withdrawal of Soviet occupational forces and the restoration of a fully independent, non-aligned Afghanistan.

ECONOMIC/TRADE POLICY

Trade policy criticized

A demand for federal action to relieve unemployment in the lumber and automobile industries came from opposition MPs in the House of Commons on March 22. New Democratic and Progressive Conservative MPs charged that the Liberal Government hadn't done enough to encourage exports through negotiating better trade deals. NDP Leader Ed Broadbent gave the example that Canada could take steps toward negotiating a higher minimum level of Canadian parts content for Japanese cars. Industry Minister Herb Gray countered that the Government is doing as well as it can under international economic conditions. (*Globe and Mail*, March 23)

Similarly, in a letter addressed to Prime Minister Trudeau on March 24, Broadbent reminds Trudeau of the NDP's New Employment Option, which proposes to "put this country on the road to economic recovery." Recovery from the severe crisis in the manufacturing sector, especially transportation equipment and machinery production, is possible if foreign owned firms are required to provide more jobs here, Broadbent says.

Investment abroad

The Progressive Conservative Party blames the Liberal Government's "anti-private enterprise, anti-investment" policies for a record out-flow of capital to the U.S., Australia and the Far East. P.C. Finance Spokesman Michael Wilson stated on March 10 that the out-flow is a major factor in the current high interest rates and unemployment level.

Foreign investment in Stock Market

Toronto Stock Exchange figures show that the value of orders by foreign investors dropped by about one-quarter in 1981. The final three months of the year were noticeably weak. A *Globe and Mail* report states that "it is plain that U.S. investors began bailing out of Canadian oil stocks following the introduction of the National Energy Program

(NEP) in October, 1980." The March 22 article says that renewed foreign investment interest will depend on investors' interpretation of NEP and nationalistic policies in other areas.

Anti-inflation policy

The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund told members of the Investment Dealers Association of Canada that the Canadian government has shown courage in its tough anti-inflation policy. According to a *Globe and Mail* report (March 11), Jacques de Larosiere described the short-term hardships and costs as unavoidable in the fight against inflation. Tax systems need revising to encourage savings over consumption, and wages must be held down to keep prices competitive in the world market, the IMF official stressed.

AID POLICY

Agriculture

The Hon. Eugene Whelan, Minister of Agriculture, voiced Canada's commitment to increasing global agricultural production at the Hemisphere '82 Conference in Denver, Colorado, on March 26. Whelan forecast increased spending on aid in both real and proportional terms with development assistance a priority.

Relief to Africa

The League of Red Cross Societies has been granted by Canada \$450,000 for its humanitarian relief efforts in Africa, to be provided through the International Humanitarian Assistance program of CIDA. Funds will be devoted to the relief portion of the LRCS 1982 African program, which has mounted large-scale efforts to respond to widespread drought and famine, and has initiated better disaster preparedness programs.

Relief for war victims

The Hon. Mark MacGuigan, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced March 26 that Canada would grant a total of \$880,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross in response to appeals for funding in aid of victims of conflicts including the Iraq-Iran war and civil strife in El Salvador and Lebanon. The Committee assists conflict victims and acts as neutral intermediary in all humanitarian matters, visiting prisoners of war, providing medical assistance and utilizing its Central Tracing Agency for the location of missing and displaced persons.