

Belgrade talks (Cont'd from P. 2)

sure that we understand what it is. That we have not succeeded in putting words on paper is unfortunate. But it is not the heart of the matter. The heart of the matter is that commitments freely undertaken at Helsinki are carried out in practice. For that we should not need verbal reminders. The language of the Final Act is clear. We did not come here to alter it, and its provisions remain an indispensable yardstick against which performance will be measured. At Madrid we shall have a clearer picture of where we stand. It will then be five years from the signature of the Final Act. Public opinion in our countries is not likely to grant us much of a further reprieve if we are not seen by then to have pursued the course we charted together at Helsinki with a greater sense of commitment and with greater imagination. Belgrade and Madrid may be important milestones on that course. But the real test of the CSCE lies in the commitment we are prepared to give to its continuity, and in whether concrete adjustments will be made in our national policies. We should not look to a miracle at Madrid to relieve us of the responsibilities of proper performance between now and then.

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News briefs

Saskatchewan has announced a budget that calls for lower taxes including personal income taxes, a program to create jobs and action to stimulate the economy, plus higher taxes on alcohol and tobacco. The \$1.7-billion budget predicts a deficit of \$44 million.

The Federal Government has cut its

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export levies on gasoline and middle distillates by 50 cents a barrel but has increased its export charge on heavy fuel oil by 50 cents a barrel.

Ottawa has set a price of \$3 a bushel for the guaranteed initial payment for wheat in the 1978-79 crop year, unchanged from the current 1977-78 crop year.

Ontario Hydro has won a \$99.6-million order to supply heavy water to the Point Lepreau nuclear power plant being built for the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission. Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., the federal nuclear development agency, has been forced to buy the water because of mechanical problems last year at its plant in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. The order represents about two-thirds of the annual production of Ontario Hydro's Bruce heavy water plant.

Associated Press reports that the Japanese Government is prepared to invest \$135 million in Canadian oil-sands development in return for 25 per cent of the concession rights

Canada's crude oil supplies remain precarious and its natural gas supplies merely adequate, despite recent discoveries in Alberta and British Columbia, according to estimates of conventional fuel reserves by the Canadian Petroleum Association. Tabulations by the CPA indicate that the decline in proved oil reserves continued for the eighth consecutive year in 1977, although the difference between production and net additions to reserves has narrowed somewhat, compared with those of previous years. As far as gas supplies are concerned, reserves have increased marginally after replacing in full 1977 production from western Canadian fields.

To help reduce the negative impact of government regulation on the private sector, the Federal Government is planning to introduce a new two-stage regulatory announcement procedure this summer. Instead of having federal regulations come into effect when they are first made public in the *Canada Gazette*, the Government plans to publish a notice of intention outlining the proposed regulations, and including an explanation of the reason for them, the expected impact, and the estimated benefits and costs to the public and the affected private sectors. Interested people and companies will be given an average of 60 days to comment on the proposals. The Government will then review the regulations before publishing the final version.

The Federal Government has decided to establish a \$50-million Yukon Heritage Fund and to allow the Yukon territorial government to borrow independently up to \$200 million. The moves should allow the Yukon to handle the major service spending associated with the construction of the Alaska Highway gas pipeline and to maximize social benefits for Yukon residents from the pipeline.

The average number of persons per household declined to 3.1 in 1976 from 3.5 in 1971, according to the recently-released 1976 census. While the total number of households increased 18.8 per cent between 1971 and 1976 (from 6,034,510 to 7,166,095), the number of one-person households increased 48.5 per cent (from 811,835 to 1,205,340).

The newly-formed Canadian Agriculture Movement began a campaign for higher farm-commodity prices by setting up pickets at a number of livestock auction markets, meat packers and grain elevators in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Norah Story, former director of the Public Archives in Ottawa and author of *The Oxford Companion to Canadian History and Literature* — for which she received the Governor General's Gold Medal — died in Toronto on March 5. She was 75.

Some 184 senior citizens' groups across Canada will receive federal contributions totalling \$1,331,455. The funds are made available through the Department of National Health and Welfare's New Horizons program, which supports groups of retired people who create projects of their own choice and undertake activities for the benefit of themselves and others in the community. The emphasis will be on local needs and interests as seen by senior citizens.

The University of Saskatchewan and Chernivtsy State University of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic have approved a five-year program of academic and cultural exchanges and co-operation in research. Saskatchewan may send English or French teachers to give lectures, or teachers of Ukrainian to take extension courses. Chernivtsy may send teachers of Ukrainian to give lectures or English teachers to take courses.

The *Montreal Star* quotes Joey Smallwood, former Newfoundland premier, as saying he believes Premier Lévesque will attempt to renege on his promise to hold a referendum on separation as he is afraid to lose.