

International Energy Agency to meet in Toronto

The 20 member nations of the International Energy Agency (IEA) have accepted Canada's invitation to hold the next ministerial meeting of the governing board in Toronto on May 21-22.

The last meeting, held in Paris in October 1977, was chaired by Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Alastair Gillespie. At that meeting, ministers adopted a decision establishing objectives for total oil imports and 12 principles of energy policy as guidelines for the implementation of national measures in such areas as conservation, use of more plentiful fuels, and expansion of indigenous energy supplies.

The meeting in May will review progress by member countries in response to those objectives and assess the world energy situation with particular reference to recent international developments affecting the oil market. It will also consider ways of encouraging the expansion of steam coal production and trade within the IEA.

Protection of Privacy Act and Official Secrets Act annual reports

The use of electronic surveillance by police in Western Canada recently contributed to the arrest of five persons and resulted in seizure of 13.6 tons of marijuana with a street value of \$35 million, Solicitor-General Jean-Jacques Blais reported recently.

The information is contained in the Solicitor General's annual report under the Protection of Privacy Act which reveals, under a legal requirement, the number of interceptions of private communications conducted by the police in Canada for federal offences. There were 712 authorizations granted in 1978, and three applications were denied.

Applications for interceptions must be approved by a designated investigator's superiors and an agent specially designated by the Solicitor General — usually a law officer of the Crown. A judge of a superior court of criminal jurisdiction or a judge as defined in Section 482 of the Criminal Code must also be satisfied by a statement under oath that the interception is necessary and is indeed the only way of

IJC reports, Canada responds

Canada has conveyed to the International Joint Commission (IJC) a formal response to the recommendations to Governments contained in the IJC's Fifth Annual Report on Great Lakes Water Quality.

The report identified several of the recommendations in the 1976 Report of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board to which the IJC believes Canada and the United States, as parties to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, should give priority consideration.

Canada and the province of Ontario recently completed a comprehensive review of Great Lakes water quality matters in light of the report. The combined response informs the IJC of the specific status of Canadian federal and provincial programs and expresses continued support of the objectives of the agreement.

Copies of the Canadian response may be obtained from: Canada-United States Relations Division, Intergovernmental Affairs Directorate, Corporate Planning Group, Department of Fisheries and Environment, Ottawa, K1A 1C7.

obtaining the necessary evidence.

Although the seizure in Western Canada was the most spectacular, through the use of electronic surveillance, other very substantial quantities of illicit drugs were prevented from reaching the neighbourhood traffickers and users. These are: heroin, 2.5 kilos; cocaine, 2 kilos; hashish, 29 kilos; hashish oil, 7.6 kilos; and marijuana, 467 kilos.

There is a considerable time-lag between arrests and eventual conviction. Many cases concerning authorizations obtained in 1975 are still before the courts and the number of convictions is therefore expected to increase in 1979.

The cumulative nature of the figure is demonstrated by using 1975 as an example.

"It is very clear that the interception of private communications is being used only as a very last resort," Mr. Blais said.

Ski team still shines

The Canadian men's downhill team placed five in the top ten at the U.S. national downhill skiing championships in Lake Placid, New York, last month.

"That shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone," said Ken Read, the 24-year-old Calgary skier ranked among the top three downhill racers in the world. "We've been coming on strong for the last five years."

Read, twice a winner on the World Cup circuit, finished fourth in the race down the 3,028-metre course with an 832-metre vertical drop. Toronto's Steve Podborski placed third, Dave Murray of Abbotsford, British Columbia was fifth, Dave Irwin of Thunder Bay, Ontario took seventh place and Robin McLeish of Kanata, Ontario shared tenth place.

The comraderie of the Canadian skiers was noted by a U.S. team official. "I've never seen a group so together with each other, so caring about how the other guy was doing," he said. "They were just beautiful to watch in those bright yellow suits coming down the hill and then gathering at the finish line to cheer their teammates."

"However, electronic surveillance remains an essential tool if certain types of crimes are to be contained."

Official secrets

The Solicitor General also tabled his annual report to Parliament on the Official Secrets Act, which indicated that a total of 392 warrants were issued and that they were in force for an average of 244.71 days.

"Warrants issued pursuant to Section 16 (2) of the Official Secrets Act have continued to prove of value in the detection and prevention of subversive activity both in the sphere of foreign intelligence activities directed towards gathering intelligence information relating to Canada and in the violent terrorist or criminal activities directed towards accomplishing governmental change in Canada or elsewhere," the report said.

	Authorizations	Arrests	Convictions
1975 figures reported in 1975	562	1,208	196
1975 figures reported in 1976	562	1,492	514
1975 figures reported in 1977	562	1,523	836
1975 figures reported in 1978	562	1,557	968