

Refugee sponsorship pact signed

Employment and Immigration Minister Loyd Axworthy has signed a refugee sponsorship agreement with the Canadian Polish Congress making it easier for Congress branches or member organizations in Canada to help convention refugees and self-exiled people from Eastern Europe.

Umbrella agreements increase the potential for participation by local member groups by eliminating much of the time and paperwork involved in sponsorship arrangements at the local level. The agreement outlines the responsibilities of both the Canadian Polish Congress and the Canadian government. More than 40 such umbrella sponsorship agreements have been concluded to date.

Under the 1981 refugee plan, 4,000 refugees from Eastern Europe are expected to resettle in Canada. Approximately 3,700 Eastern European refugees arrived in Canada during 1980.

Tourism industry lures visitors

The Canadian tourism industry, together with federal, provincial and territorial governments, is investing an estimated \$2 billion in new tourism facilities to encourage more visitors — especially Americans — to come to Canada, according to Charles Lapointe, Canada's Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism.

The minister predicted that the new and expanded tourism facilities along with the favourable currency exchange rate for U.S. visitors "will make Canada the travel buy of the world during the 1980s".

Mr. Lapointe cited new developments that include Whistler, a \$400-million international class, year-round resort complex in British Columbia; Canada's Wonderland, the country's first theme park built at a cost of \$115 million near Toronto; \$300-million worth of new convention centres across the country; and more than \$300 million in new hotel development, as examples of the combined support by the public and private sectors of the Canadian tourism industry, working together to rejuvenate Canada's image as a leading world travel destination.

The Canadian Government Office of Tourism (CGOT) and six private industry partners recently began advertising aimed

at attracting Americans to visit Canada. The group combined resources to publish *Travel Times*, a 32-page magazine supplement describing Canadian tourist attractions for the summer vacationer. The magazines were distributed primarily through Sunday newspapers.

Industry partners involved in the venture are VIA Rail, Air Canada, Eastern Airlines, Greyhound Coach, Maupintour and Cartan Tours. Other U.S. publicity efforts include advertising in selected consumer magazines and radio commercials during May.

Advertisements in leading magazines in Britain, France, Germany, Holland, Japan, Australia and Mexico form the backbone of CGOT's summer advertising campaign abroad.

Diplomat's biography published



Andor Andre Sima

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan speaks with Henriette Robertson, one of the guests of honour at a reception held in Ottawa. The two hold copies of a recently-published biography of Mrs. Robertson's husband, entitled *A Man of Influence: Norman A. Robertson*, written by Jack L. Granatstein, the other guest of honour at the reception. Mr. Robertson was an adviser of policy and strategy to five prime ministers: Richard B. Bennett, William Lyon Mackenzie King, Louis St. Laurent, John G. Diefenbaker and Lester B. Pearson. His foreign service career included twice being Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, twice High Commissioner in London and Canadian Ambassador to Washington.

Methanol study begins

The federal government is paying Canada's largest mining company \$350,000 to explore the possibility of using methanol fuel to help clean up their underground operations, reports *The Citizen*, April 4.

The three-year contract awarded to International Nickel Company (Inco) involves testing the ability of underground vehicles to run on a mixture of methanol and diesel fuel in Sudbury nickel mines.

Should the idea prove feasible it could be put to work in all 2,000 underground vehicles in the Sudbury area. Federal methanol specialists say air in the mines would be much easier to breathe as methanol is a cleaner-burning fuel than diesel.

Could save fuel

As a bonus, the renewable form of fuel — which can be generated by garbage, wood wastes or coal — could save about 16 million gallons of diesel fuel each year.

While a drop in the bucket when compared to the 45 million gallons of gas consumed in Canada each day, federal energy official Roy Sage says "it would still be significant saving" because most diesel is produced from imported oil which is heavier than the Canadian type.

Inco's research and demonstration project is one of the first and largest federal grants for methanol use and the company is matching the government funding in the project.

The federal government is also considering a major research effort into methanol production from the Onakawana lignite coal deposits in northern Ontario. It is estimated the deposits could produce enough methanol, which can also be mixed with gasoline, to displace 10 per cent of all the gasoline consumed in the province.

Mixtures studied

Meanwhile, the Inco project is under way with the company subcontracting much of the work to the Ontario Research Foundation.

Specialists there will examine how well the underground mining vehicles run on the fuel mixture of 30 per cent methanol, study emissions from the heavy vehicles and explore the problems associated with mixing the two fuels together. The fuels have a tendency to separate in cold climates.