

grow larger all the time. We will have to reduce our exports to the United States and increase our dependence on imports from overseas. We have now found out, as everyone knows, that the extraction of oil from our huge reserves in the oil sands will be much more difficult and more costly than we had all expected a year ago. Production from the big Syncrude project will cost much more than the price we now pay for crude oil in Canada. We don't know yet just when or by whom the next oil-sands project will be started. Meanwhile, we have not had big discoveries of oil in the Arctic or offshore and the estimates of cost of exploration and development have risen sharply. We are not as lucky as we thought we were last year.

#### Producing provinces' position

We cannot expect those who search for oil — whether they be Canadians or others — to look for it and develop it in Canada if our prices are far below

those in other countries. We cannot go on year after year being extravagant in our use of oil far beyond what almost every other country in the world consumes — mainly because it is being sold cheaply in Canada, a lot cheaper than elsewhere and a lot cheaper than our future supplies will cost. We cannot expect Alberta and Saskatchewan to go on year after year selling their oil to Canadians at a price which is far below what they could get by exporting it.

So my colleagues in the Government and I have come reluctantly to believe that the price of oil in Canada must go up — up towards the world price. It need not go all the way up. We should watch what happens to the world price and decide from year to year what we should do. But the price for the year beginning in July will have to be higher than it is now. How much higher, we should discuss. Whatever is done about oil will also affect the

price of natural gas. Gas and oil prices must be related and become competitive. The past year's experience has pointed up the need for higher gas prices to the producers in order to stimulate exploration and development.

In looking towards increased prices for oil and gas, however, we all have to bear in mind that any increases will add to the cost of living and have unpleasant consequences on the economy. The higher the increases, the worse the impact on the pocket-book of most Canadians and on the economy generally. For increases will make it harder to maintain production in other industries and to support the level of employment — because the extra money that consumers would have to pay for oil and gas would have to be diverted from buying other things. To find, in all of this, the price levels which will be a good Canadian solution, will require all our wisdom.

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### Canada and Britain sign urban affairs agreement

Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson and British Environment Minister Anthony Crosland signed a bilateral agreement in London, April 11, for co-operation and consultation on the urban environment.

The three-year agreement establishes a joint steering committee and outlines a program for co-operation and consultation in matters concerning the urban environment such as housing, transportation, management of urban growth, and new and expanded communities.

It is aimed at achieving an exchange of experience in specified areas and includes provisions for exchange of information and possibly staff for the purposes of consultation and joint research projects.

#### Ten-day European visit

Mr. Danson, who spent ten days in Europe, visited Paris, Amsterdam, The Hague, Stockholm and London, where he also discussed Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to be held in Vancouver in 1976.

"This is the first time we are officially meeting with our European counterparts to compare the experience Canada has gained from a relatively

short, but dynamic urban history with the longer history that has shaped European cities. We hope this first meeting will result in a continuing exchange of urban information," Mr. Danson said.

In Paris, the Minister spoke with French Public Works Minister Robert Galley on the possibility of an agreement for co-operation and regular exchanges on urban problems and experience between Canada and France — similar to the one signed in London.

In the Netherlands, Mr. Danson visited the capital, The Hague, and the City of Amsterdam, which is celebrating its seven-hundredth anniversary this year. Amsterdam is the international twin city of Toronto.

In Sweden — a country with climatic conditions similar to Canada's — he spent some time in Stockholm and adjoining satellite towns. Rapid transit was a subject of interest, as 70 per cent of the city's population uses public transportation.

Mr. Danson was accompanied by J.W. MacNeill, Secretary of the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs; William Teron, President, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation; and Edgar Gallant, Chairman, National Capital Commission.

### France/Canada teleconferences

An audio-visual link was established on April 3 between Minister of Communications Gérard Pelletier and Aymar Achille-Fould, Post and Telecommunications Minister of France, to inaugurate the first of a series of teleconferences between France and Canada using the new French/German *Symphonie* satellite.

The two ministers spoke for about ten minutes before the first experimental teleconference began between the University of Montreal and the University of Paris.

During the next few days, four teleconferences using the new satellite were held between France and Canada, each allowing participants to see and hear their counterparts on television monitors. The public were able to see the teleconferences on a large screen.

The series was arranged as part of a general program of co-operation between the two countries. During a trip to France last October, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau expressed an interest in the possibility of Canadian participation in the *Symphonie* satellite project.

The first teleconference, linked together participants at the University of Montreal and their counterparts in Paris. Jean Cloutier, director of the