

and a stick to work effectively." Tony Earl said the carrot would be US government support for demonstrating clean coal technologies, but the "stick must be enforceable emission-reduction deadlines" to motivate the development of those technologies. The July 24 *Globe and Mail* report said that current legislative proposals in the US congress did not tie spending on clean coal to specific emission reductions. The tie-in would reflect a more flexible approach that could break the deadlock in the congress over methods to reduce acid rain-causing emissions.

China

Grain Purchases

The Chinese minister of commerce, during a visit to Winnipeg, said that Canada's wheat trade with China had a good future provided Canada continued to offer high quality wheat at competitive prices. Mr. Liu Yi and five other delegates from China visited the Canadian Wheat Board, as well as railway and trucking firms, feed companies, meat-packing houses and manufacturers of oilseed crushing equipment. In 1986 China bought 2.6 million tonnes of wheat from Canada, a decline from its peak purchase of 3.5 million tonnes in 1983, the June 2 *Western Producer* report said. China had failed to renew a long-term wheat-buying agreement with Canada in 1985, but a move in China to improve livestock production was resulting in an increase in barley shipments. Mr. Liu said that barring a natural disaster China's 1987 grain production would match its 1984 record harvest.

The *Globe and Mail* reported on June 19 that an expected shortfall in China's grain harvest target for 1987 would force that country to increase its imports. One Western diplomat, the report said, estimated the necessary imports at 10.85 million tonnes, up from 9.75 tonnes in 1986.

Firefighting Aid

On June 3 a Canadian Forces Hercules landed in Beijing with a load of firefighting equipment for northeastern China, which was suffering its worst forest fire since 1949. The equipment was transferred to smaller People's Liberation Army planes, since the runways in the destination city of Jiagedaqi were not strong enough to bear the Hercules. Many of the soldiers who had battled the fire, which was reported to be out after destroying 600,00 hectares, had had no equipment at all, and needed the pumps, shovels, axes and pump-repair kits from Canada in order to put out small fires as they examined the burned-over area. A request for fire-bombers made to Canada on May 23 had been denied, as Canadian ambassador Richard Gorham decided that they could not reach the area in time. The Canadian embassy, in addition to arranging for the June 3 shipment of equipment, had donated \$50,000 of its foreign-aid budget for relief supplies, and another \$50,000 was given by CIDA to the UN for disaster relief in the area.

The northeastern city of Jiagedaqi was the headquarters of a \$5.7 million foreign aid project, financed by Canada, to train Chinese foresters to do a better job of fighting fires. China lost an average of one million hectares to forest fires each year, the June 4 *Globe and Mail* report said.

France

Fishing Dispute

On June 2 the *Ottawa Citizen* reported that talks between France and Canada would resume later in June on the fishery and maritime boundary dispute around St. Pierre-Miquelon. External Affairs Minister Joe Clark told the Commons on June 1 that the French were not insisting that Canadian ports be reopened to French fishing vessels before they resumed talks with Canada, despite what French president François Mitterrand had said the previous week in St. Pierre-Miquelon (See "International Canada" for April and May 1987). Mr. Clark also said that Canada had no intention of reopening the ports in the near future. Canadian government officials said that the French government had issued a clarification of Mr. Mitterrand's remarks, saying that negotiations would continue, the *Ottawa Citizen* report said.

On June 20 a French foreign ministry official explained that France was cancelling the June 24-25 negotiating session because of the Canadian government's attitude in unilaterally closing Canadian ports to French trawlers. The same day, Transport Minister John Crosbie said that the French protest might delay negotiations but it would not change Canada's position in the dispute. "We have no intention of changing our approach to the negotiations," the Minister said (*Ottawa Citizen*, June 22).

On July 2 Mr. Crosbie and Fisheries and Oceans Minister Tom Siddon released the Canada/France scientific assessment of the disputed 3PS zone cod stock. The assessment was carried out in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, from May 28-30, in accordance with the January 24 agreement (See "International Canada" for December 1986 and January 1987). The assessment confirmed that there had been serious overfishing, but indicated that the stock was in no immediate danger. "The scientific assessment indicates that the recent escalation in French catches has pushed the total catch to unacceptably high levels," Mr. Siddon said. "Fortunately, there was an unusual increase in survival of young fish during the years before the significant French overfishing began. Since 1980, the number of young fish in this stock — which largely depends on environmental factors — has been high. Nature and Canada's conservation-oriented management methods have provided a temporary cushion that has prevented the overfishing from running down the stock size, so far. The stock has, in fact, been increasing, but at a lower rate than if the overfishing were not taking place." Mr. Siddon added that there was no indication that the survival of young fish would remain favorable in upcoming years. "French overfishing remains a serious threat to the long-term health of the stock," Mr. Crosbie said (Government of Canada communiqué, July 2).

Oil Drilling Permits

On June 9 the Canadian government filed a diplomatic protest against France's decision to issue drilling permits for an area on the Grand Banks off the Newfoundland coast. The two governments had disputed sovereignty in the area