

Program boosts scientific businesses

A new federal program aimed at assisting medium- and small-sized businesses involved in scientific and technological work is under way, Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced.

The program, funded at \$16 million over two years, subsidizes employers with a contribution of up to 75 per cent of wages for each eligible employee to a maximum contribution of \$290 a week per job for a maximum of 12 months.

The objective of the program is to create additional employment for highly-educated, scientifically and technically qualified recent labour force entrants who are unable to obtain employment in their discipline. Another objective is to encourage research and development, energy conservation and alternative energy initiatives by the employers.

Under the new technology employment program, eligible employers who may submit proposals are: private sector firms which normally employ fewer than 300 employees; research institutes; non-profit Crown corporations; universities and community colleges; individuals in single proprietorships, or partnerships; associations and community organizations.

Canada signs property claims agreement with Cuba

The Canadian and Cuban governments have signed an agreement in respect of Canadian citizens' claims against Cuba, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced.

The agreement was signed in Havana on November 7 by Gary R. Harman, Canadian Ambassador to Cuba and by José A. Fernandez De Cossio, the Cuban Vice-Minister of Foreign Relations. The agreement will come into force on the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification which is expected to take place in Ottawa shortly.

The claims covered in the agreement arose from post-revolution nationalization and similar measures adopted by the Cuban government which affected property rights owned by Canadian citizens. Claims of Canadian insurance companies in respect of their commercial operations in Cuba are not covered by the agreement.

Negotiations between officials of the

two governments in respect of the claims began in May 1972 and subsequent discussions were held in Havana and Ottawa.

The agreement provides for the payment of a lump sum of \$850,000 in the form of an initial payment of \$150,000 on the date of entry into force of the agreement and four subsequent equal half-yearly payments of \$175,000, the first installment to be paid not later than six months from the coming into force of the agreement.

The Foreign Claims Commission will be authorized to make recommendations to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Finance regarding the distribution of the proceeds of the settlement.

Pearson peace medal



Andor Andre Sima

Governor-General Edward Schreyer (right) presents Dr. J. King Gordon (left) with the 1980 Pearson Peace Medal. Dr. Gordon, who has worked with many United Nations groups throughout the world is the second recipient of the Pearson Peace Medal. The annual award is made by the United Nations Association in Canada to a Canadian "who through voluntary effort, has personally most contributed to those causes for which Lester B. Pearson stood: aid to the developing world, mediation between those confronting one another with arms, succor to refugees and others in need, and peaceful change through world law and world organization".

CIDA funds to assist Ethiopian drought victims

Canada will give \$4 million in food aid to Ethiopia this year, Margaret Catley-Carlson, acting president of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has announced.

The food aid will be distributed to drought victims and refugees of the Ogaden and Eritrean regions of the country. Approximately 10,000 metric tonnes of wheat are expected to be delivered in November or December.

The population of Ethiopia is 20 million and its *per capita* annual income is estimated at \$140. The Sahelian country experienced severe drought in the early 1970s and again during the past 18 months. Present estimates are that more than five million people are suffering the effects of drought.

Agricultural production in the cereal-producing regions of Ethiopia was also diminished as a consequence of the civil war in Eritrea to the northwest and the border conflict with Somalia to the southeast.

Distribution of food aid will be handled by the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission.

A memorandum of understanding for the Canadian wheat was signed recently by the relief organization's chief commissioner Shimelis Adungna and Canadian Ambassador to Ethiopia Aubrey Morantz.

Tax treaty signed

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Allan J. MacEachen and U.S. Secretary of the Treasury G. William Miller recently signed a convention in Washington regarding taxes on income and on capital.

The convention will enter into force upon the exchange of instruments of ratification and its provisions will generally have effect:

- for tax withheld at the source, with respect to amounts paid or credited on or after the first day of the second month following the date on which the convention enters into force; and
- for other taxes, with respect to taxable years beginning on or after the first day of January following the date on which the convention enters into force.