

## UNITED KINGDOM

### Visit of Prime Minister Thatcher

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher paid a two-day visit to Canada at the end of September. During her stay in Ottawa Mrs. Thatcher met with Prime Minister Trudeau and his Ministers and was paid a courtesy call by Leader of the Opposition Brian Mulroney. It was reported that Mrs. Thatcher and the Canadian ministers discussed ways to improve trade and investment between Canada and the UK. Private talks between the Prime Ministers included such topics as NATO, the Geneva arms reduction negotiations, the situation in Lebanon and the Korean Air Lines tragedy. (*Globe and Mail*, September 27).

On Monday, September 26, Mrs. Thatcher addressed a joint sitting of the House of Commons and the Senate. The theme of her speech was that it was time for freedom to take the offensive. She denounced the Soviet Union and the propaganda it puts forth and voiced her support for NATO and its ideals: "We in NATO threaten no one. We come together not to attack others but to defend our own. We shall engage in the battle of ideas. We intend freedom and justice to conquer . . . it is not part of our policy to impose our beliefs by force or the threat of force."

Mrs. Thatcher cited the links between Canada and Britain and said that her government is "deeply interested" in Canada. In addition to NATO, she spoke of other common international commitments which Canada and Britain share:

As founder members of the Commonwealth we have a special opportunity to join with that unique gathering of nations to preserve and extend the heritage of ideals which are the essence of the Commonwealth . . .

As members of the economic Summit, Canada and Britain again share a distinctive responsibility to apply the energy and experience of the world's most advanced and successful economies to the serious economic and financial problems which face so many countries, to preserve and extend the world's free trading system, to bring to the developing countries aid, advice and help as they tackle their own formidable difficulties.

As founder members of the United Nations — we shall both continue to take a special interest in world security, and in peacekeeping and the work of its specialized agencies.

According to *The Citizen* of September 27, Mrs. Thatcher's speech was praised by Cabinet ministers. Defence Minister Jean-Jacques Blais said that the speech showed her "strong and determined advocacy for NATO solidarity." Pauline Jewett (NDP, New Westminster-Coquitlam) called the speech "a great disappointment and even more warlike than I had expected."

## USA

### Appointment of Canadian Affairs Chief

On September 13, the US State Department announced the appointment of James M. Medas as the new deputy assistant secretary with specific responsibilities for Canadian affairs. The appointment was accompanied by a

title change in the regional desk which handles Canadian matters from the Bureau of European Affairs to the Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs.

In response to the announcement, Canadian Ambassador Allan Gottlieb denied speculation that Medas' appointment was simply cosmetic and expressed the confidence that it "will facilitate the conduct of relations" between Canada and the US. He added that "having as senior an official as the deputy assistant secretary full time on Canada will increase access to senior levels."

In the same report in the *Montreal Gazette*, Mr. Jacques Roy, deputy head of the Canadian Embassy said that the appointment meant that Canada would be the only country with its own State Department section to deal with its affairs.

The *Winnipeg Free Press* approved both the name change and the appointment of Mr. Medas who was, "well respected for the skill with which he handled his White House task of establishing friendly liaison with Democratic and Republican state governors. That suggests a personal tact and capability that can only help Canada-US relations."

### Garrison Diversion: Construction of Lonetree Dam

Despite the fact that a US Environmental Protection Agency study had been highly critical of the Garrison Diversion Project, the United States Government ordered a contract to start construction on the Lonetree Dam. This would, if completed, damage the Manitoba fish and hurt commercial fishing according to Dan McKenzie (PC, Winnipeg-Assiniboine), who asked in the House on September 15 what action the Government was taking on this development.

Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade) replied that the United States Government was fully aware of the Canadian government's position in relation to the Garrison Project and that it was "unfortunate" that the US had undertaken the action with regard to Lonetree without having settled the whole question of the Garrison matter with Canada.

When asked why Canadian officials were not fully consulted before the US went ahead, Mr. Regan said that it was true that the Canadian Government had been surprised to learn of the US plan for the awarding of the Lonetree contract. He added that Canada had already, in the past, indicated to the US its concern on this matter and that Canada continued to believe that consultations were the most effective means of resolving Canada's concerns.

On that same day, Charles Caccia, Minister of the Environment, in response to an inquiry from Terry Sargeant (NDP, Selkirk-Interlake), stated that he had taken the opportunity, during a meeting with the Secretary of the Interior in Washington, to register "as clearly and as strongly as possible," the concern of Manitobans and of the Government of Canada on that particular issue. The Secretary of the Interior had indicated to Mr. Caccia that, at least during his incumbency, the American initiative would be limited to the construction of the Lonetree Dam. That was the extent of the commitment the Secretary was willing to give.

Mr. Sargeant further questioned the Minister on the steps he was taking to ensure that the US would not proceed beyond phase one of the current design (Lonetree Dam), and those he was taking to get the US to agree that