

News briefs

Solicitor General Jean-Jacques Blais recently announced a contribution of \$900,000 to five criminological research centres in Canada over the next three years. Topics to be studied under the new grants include violent crime, economic crime, discretion in the criminal justice system, and native people and the criminal justice process.

People living near the Great Lakes are breathing more easily but scientists report a persistent problem with suspended particles in the air. The International Michigan-Ontario Air Pollution Board, in its third annual report, says also that the quality of air has improved in urban Montreal and in most of Quebec's mining cities, including Thetford Mines, Black Lake and Noranda.

Dr. Arthur Pearson has resigned as commissioner of the Yukon Territory. He will be replaced for the next three months by interim commissioner Frank Fingland. Dr. Pearson has been appointed by Northern Affairs Minister Hugh Faulkner to organize and act as initial chairman of a joint federal/territorial task force on land management in the northern Yukon.

Canadian academic Dr. David W. Steedman has been appointed director of the Social Sciences Division of the International Development Research Centre of Canada. He will direct a program of research on such subjects as education, population dynamics and policies, rural modernization and science and technology policy for developing countries.

The Canadian International Development Agency has contributed \$200,000 in aid of victims of the Lebanese conflict. This contribution, the second made by Canada this year, brings the total Canadian humanitarian assistance to Lebanon since 1975 to \$5.96 million.

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Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.

Canada has given formal notice of its withdrawal from the British Commonwealth Merchant Shipping Agreement. Representatives of Commonwealth governments party to the Agreement agreed in November 1977 that it was no longer relevant and that informal machinery for consultation should be developed to replace it.

The Export Development Corporation recently approved loans, surety and export credits insurance as well as foreign investment guarantees totalling \$495.76 million to support prospective export sales of \$541.17 million to eight countries: Argentina, Australia, Egypt, El Salvador, Korea, Nigeria, Britain and the U.S.S.R. The export sales will create or maintain some 7,750 man-years of employment in Canada and will involve ten suppliers and at least 110 sub-suppliers. The transactions involve such goods and services as mining projects, road construction, power projects, pumping units and data processing equipment.

Quebec is the only region in Canada for which the Canadian market is more important than the international market, according to a review of recent data in a report from the C.D. Howe Research Institute. Using 1974 figures, the report shows Quebec's international exports at 16 per cent and interprovincial exports of manufactured goods at 19 per cent for a total of 35 per cent of gross provincial product, which rises to 40 per cent when shipments of raw materials from Quebec to the rest of Canada are included.

Air Canada has reported a profit of \$50.6 million for the first nine months of this year, compared with \$25.9 million for the corresponding period of 1977.

Winnipeg Jets of the World Hockey Association announced recently that 39-year-old star left winger Bobby Hull had retired as a hockey player. The retirement is "for personal reasons" because, after 22 years in pro hockey, Hull no longer enjoys the game.

Brigadier-General Ed Bridgland (now retired), former director of aeronautical project management in the Canadian Air Transportation Administration (CATA) in Ottawa, has been appointed to Washington as liaison officer between the civil aeronautics administrations of Canada and the United States.

Public libraries in Canada reported a total of 37,533,848 volumes held in 1976 and circulated 112,240,346 items of library material. The libraries were served

by 1,607 professional librarians. Of the 754 public libraries reported 207 were urban, 452 were rural, 70 were regional, nine were provincial or territorial, and 15 were county libraries in Ontario. There was a total of 2,664 service points in 1976.

Use of metric measurements will become mandatory on May 1, 1979, for all applications for financial assistance with home construction under the National Housing Act. Canada's building industry designated 1978 as "Metric Conversion Year" with the objective of adopting metric value measurements as standard practice throughout the industry as soon as possible.

Richard Burke, EC Commission Member responsible for Taxation, Transport, Consumer Affairs and Relations with the European Parliament, visited Canada, October 24 and 25. On behalf of the EC, Mr. Burke signed an international convention that will lead to the creation of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), and had talks with Minister of Justice, of Transport and of the Wheat Board, Otto Lang. He also met in Montreal with Assad Kotaite and Yves Lambert, President and Secretary-General, respectively, of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Chicago Black Hawks defenceman Bobby Orr, who has been hampered by knee injuries during most of his NHL career, has contributed \$90,000 to York University in Toronto to aid in the building of a sports injury clinic.

Canada's aerospace industry will receive more than \$2.5 million in research and development funds to achieve fuel and operational economies for short-haul aircraft. The funds cover a three-year program, costing approximately \$3,750,000, which is based on initiatives of Transport Canada's Research and Development Centre dealing with studies in wing technology, propeller blades and turbofan and turboprop engines.

A Canadian team captured a gold medal at the third Pan American karate championships recently, taking the women's team kata (style) competition in Toronto. The team — Nancy Hazelgrove, Pat Burcher and Sandy Shimotakahara, all of Toronto — scored 61.4 points. The Canadian men's kata team of David Tsuruoka of Toronto and Tak Samejima and Kevin Kelly of Vancouver won a silver medal with 67.0 points.