

## Agricultural exports hit record

Canadian agricultural exports rose by 26 per cent between 1978 and 1979 to a record \$6.1 billion, according to preliminary estimates by Agriculture Canada.

Agricultural imports over the same period rose by 17 per cent to almost \$4.7 billion. The agricultural trade surplus was a record \$1.4 billion, up from \$800 million in 1978.

The value of barley exports between 1978 and 1979 increased by 32 per cent, wheat by 14 per cent, rapeseed by 71 per cent, and flaxseed 64 per cent. Combined, these crops accounted for more than half the value of Canadian agricultural exports.

Fresh and frozen meat exports increased by 40 per cent to \$145 million. Exports of vegetables increased by 48 per cent to \$151 million and tobacco exports increased by 38 per cent to \$145 million.

Exports of raw hides and skins increased by 40 per cent. Undressed fur skins increased by 73 per cent. Combined, these products accounted for \$295 million.

Decreases in export values were recorded for wheat flour, corn, oilseed cake and meal and some oilseeds, such as mustardseed and soybeans.

The cost of imported fruits and vegetables, shelled corn, undressed fur skins and raw and refined sugar and syrups increased significantly.

## Law of the Sea session

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan will head the Canadian delegation to the first part of the ninth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea which is presently taking place in New York until April 4. Canada's High Commissioner to Australia, J. Alan Beesley, is Deputy Head of the delegation.

The Conference has decided that its ninth session, to be split into two five-week parts, will be the decision-making session. This first part will endeavour to finalize the negotiations on all remaining issues and to produce a final Conference document that would serve as a draft convention which could be adopted this summer in Geneva, and be signed later in Caracas.

The focus will once again be primarily on unresolved issues relating to the establishment of an international system for

## Commonwealth Day celebrated in Canada



*Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan speaks with former Commonwealth Secretary-General, Canadian Arnold Smith after opening of artifacts display.*

Commonwealth Day was observed in Canada and throughout the Commonwealth on March 10. This was the fourth consecutive year in which Commonwealth Day was marked, in accordance with a proposal made by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau at the 1975 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Kingston, Jamaica.

A special Commonwealth artifacts display in the Lester B. Pearson Building in Ottawa was officially opened by Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan, March 7.

In Ottawa, a "Commonwealth Family Dinner" sponsored by the Royal Commonwealth Society was held March 8. Special inter-faith services open to the public were held on March 9 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Ottawa; St. Andrew's Church, Halifax; Christ

Church Cathedral, Vancouver; St. Philip's Church, Victoria; and Holy Trinity Church, Toronto. On Commonwealth Day there was a display of flags of the Commonwealth nations in Confederation Square and a reception hosted by the Commonwealth High Commissioners.

Across Canada, schools, public libraries, numerous organizations and the branches of the Royal Commonwealth Society were provided with Commonwealth Day posters, specially commissioned maps and informational materials to assist in the events planned to mark this occasion.

Commonwealth Day is not a statutory holiday; rather, its observance is intended to emphasize to people in Canada and around the world the importance of the Commonwealth and the value which Canada attaches to this unique association of 42 countries of all sizes, races and cultures.

the exploitation of deep seabed resources, including controls on the level of seabed nickel production, voting procedures for the planned Council of the International Seabed Authority and contract terms between the Authority and seabed mining entities.

Discussions will also continue on delimitation of maritime boundaries between adjacent or opposite states, marine scientific research and the system of financial contributions for the exploitation of

mineral resources of the continental margin beyond 200 miles.

For Canada, the Conference has provided multilateral endorsement of the 200-mile fishing zone and the 12-mile territorial sea, reconfirmed its sovereign rights over the resources of the continental margin beyond 200 miles and contributed to international acceptance of enhanced coastal state jurisdiction over pollution from ships, particularly in ice-covered Arctic waters.