

## United Nations human settlements centre in B.C.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kurt Waldheim, recently signed an agreement governing the use of the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre for Human Settlements.

At the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements held in Vancouver May 31 to June 11, 1976, films and audio-visual presentations were presented by governments to illustrate new solutions to human-settlement problems. The Canadian Government offered to finance an information centre which would ensure the full use of this material to academics, students, government officials and private organizations throughout the world. The centre will be located on the campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

The agreement signed recently will provide for the storage, maintenance, reproduction, international distribution and augmentation of the audio-visual materials prepared for the conference. The program will be financed by the Federal Government, and equipment and facilities will be provided by the government of British Columbia, in co-operation with the University of British Columbia, until March 31, 1980.

## "Visual ear" telephone

A device that would open telephone communications to Canada's hearing- and speech-impaired population is expected to be on the market by early 1979. Bell-Northern Research is expected to have development work on a model of a pocket-sized device, known as a "visual ear", within 18 months. Development costs will be borne by the Federal Government — \$442,141 from Supply and Services Canada, \$100,000 from Communications Canada and \$100,000 from Health and Welfare Canada.

The visual ear will be a combination keyboard and display attachment for telephones. By typing out messages, hearing- and speech-impaired people will be able to "talk" to anyone whose telephone is also equipped with the device. The messages will appear electron-

ically, much the way news is spelled out on cable television sets, and is designed to be compatible with the existing teletypewriter network now being used by the deaf.

The visual ear was invented by professor Ernest Douglass and associates at the University of Toronto and Waterloo University, with initial funding by the Ontario Mission of the Deaf.

## Separation survey

Support for separatism is beginning to fade in Quebec ten months after the Parti Québécois became the provincial majority, says the second of two studies commissioned by *The Toronto Star* and Southam Press Ltd., to discover how Canadians feel about national unity.

The study shows that in Quebec support for separation has declined from 33 per cent in a *Star* survey last February to 25 per cent this summer. The study suggests Quebecers — even those who previously favoured separation — have growing doubts about it. They are looking for a new way to satisfy their economic, political and cultural needs

without quitting Canada.

Asked to classify themselves as separatists or federalists, those surveyed replied as follows:

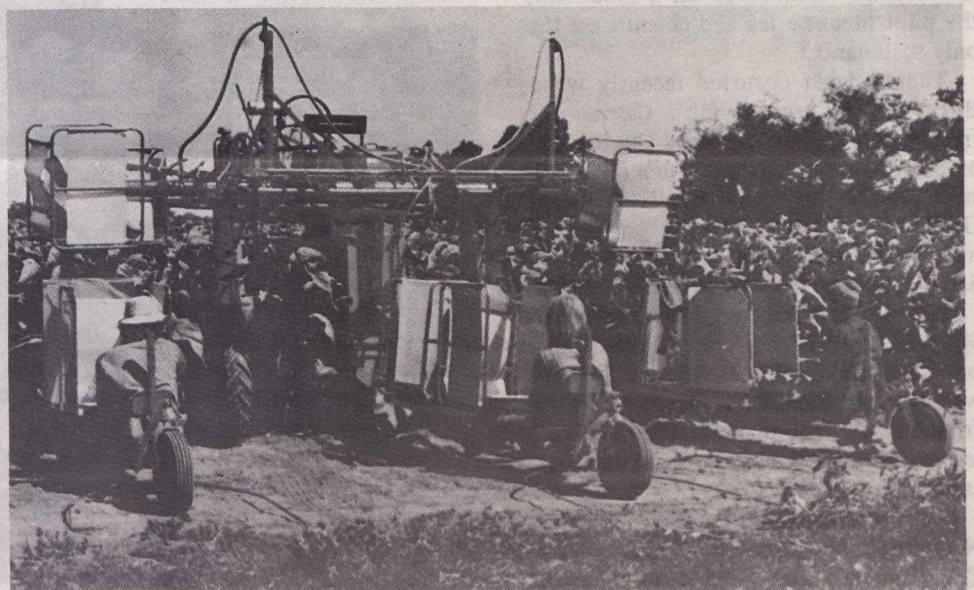
	February survey (per cent)	July survey (per cent)
Federalists	40	46
Separatists	28	17
"Middle-grounders"	32	37

Quebec residents were also asked, regardless of how they classified themselves, whether they favoured separation. The two results:

	February (per cent)	July (per cent)
Favour separation	33	25

Caution must be exercised in interpreting the figures, *The Toronto Star* points out. Most people in the "separatist" category favour political separation only if there is some form of economic union with Canada. Less than one in ten (9 per cent) of Quebecers favour a total political and economic break.

## Super harvester helps make tobacco picking easier



Canada's tobacco harvest has begun. The introduction of the Super Harvester, manufactured by Balthes Farm Equipment Manufacturing Limited, of Tillsonburg, Ontario, permits five rows of tobacco to be harvested at one time with all pickers gathering leaves from either right or left hand rows. The company exports its equipment to Australia, Hungary, Brazil, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France and the United States.