

Canada/China air link possible

Officials of CP Air are to visit Peking March 12 to 16 for talks aimed at establishing a direct air link between Canada and China.

The six-member delegation will be led by H.D. Cameron, vice-president of administration and public affairs, who said in a news release that the start of scheduled service between Canada and China would depend upon the priority Chinese authorities were giving to tourism.

The possibility of a direct air link arose shortly after Canada and China restored diplomatic relations in 1970.

An agreement had been negotiated and originally it had been planned that CP Air would begin weekly flights between Vancouver, Shanghai and Peking in May 1974. However, the service was postponed when the two countries could not resolve a problem of traffic rights in third countries.

Meantime, CP Air has arranged tours for North American travellers wishing to visit China. About 1,000 tourists travelled on CP Air last year to Hong Kong and Tokyo, where they were flown into China by the Chinese carrier or caught trains.

U.S. award for Suzuki

Scientist and media personality David Suzuki received an award for contributions to public awareness of ethics in science at an international conference on Controversies in Law, Medicine and Health Care in Vancouver last month.

Dr. Suzuki, a geneticist at the University of British Columbia, is also host of the national CBC television program *Science Magazine* and of *Quirks and Quarks* on CBC national radio. *The Nature of Things*, with David Suzuki, will begin on the CBC's national television network this autumn.

The conference, from February 22-24, was sponsored by the American Society of Law and Medicine, the Northwest Institute of Ethics and the Life Sciences, and the Children's Orthopedic Hospital and Medical Center in Seattle, Washington.

The award of distinction from the Institute was the first given to an individual.

The citation says Dr. Suzuki became a mass media communicator so that the public could become aware of some of

the possible opportunities of science and for increasing public awareness of ethical considerations in scientific discoveries.

The conference was the first organized to explore a number of medical and legal issues affecting health care and the rights of patients in Canada and the U.S.

Topics covered at the conference included the right to die and termination of life-support systems, compensation for pain, confidentiality of medical records, child abuse, children's rights, and liability of nurses.

Quebec's sovereignty-association proposal attacked

Secretary of State John Roberts labelled Quebec's proposed sovereignty-association as a "con-job" in a speech to the Canadian Club, Montreal on February 12.

"Sovereignty-association is a con-job because it puts forward as an option a position which the government of Quebec cannot honestly offer," Mr. Roberts told his audience.

"It's not an offer. It is at best a hope. A wish with fingers crossed," he added.

"Association is not something any Quebec government can guarantee; and if sovereignty were to occur it is very hard to see why the rest of Canada would accept economic association," said Mr. Roberts.

The minister said it would not be in Canada's economic interests to seek association with Quebec rather than free trade arrangements with the United States.

Discounting the chances that the people of Quebec would dramatically declare themselves for separation, Mr. Roberts nonetheless warned his audience that the greatest danger to the country lay in a gradual transfer of powers to the provinces, in response to their perennial demands for more responsibilities, — "separation by stealth" — thereby reducing the effectiveness of the Federal Government, and creating *de facto* separation.

Legal help

The minister also announced that his department would provide financial assistance for a part of the legal expenses of three litigants in Quebec who were challenging the Quebec government's language legislation restricting language rights. The Protestant School Board of

Greater Montreal, the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations and the lawyers for Devine, Singer and Le Monde de Music Discus Ltée would be given financial support.

Last March, Mr. Roberts and former Justice Minister Ron Basford jointly announced that the Federal Government would provide such aid to litigants who were seeking rulings clarifying the scope of protection afforded to official language minorities under either Section 93 or Section 133 of the British North America Act. (Section 93 relates to education and the protection of denominational schools, while Section 133 relates to the use of both English and French at the federal level and in the courts and legislature of Quebec.)

Canada helps Algeria with the books

Canada and Algeria have signed an agreement whereby the Audit Services Bureau of Supply and Services will assist the Algerian Government to improve their cost audit service in one of its companies. The contract, in the amount of \$700,000, was signed on behalf of the Canadian Commercial Corporation by the Minister of Supply and Services, Pierre De Bané. It runs for one year and is renewable.

The service will be provided to The Société Nationale de Transport et de Commercialisation des Hydrocarbures (SONATRACH), Algeria's largest government-owned national corporation. Under the agreement, 20 to 30 students of various professional levels will come to Canada during 1979 for academic and on-the-job training to increase their professional levels and to introduce them to North American auditing methods.

"Because of its bilingual nature, Canada is in a good position to provide North American expertise in such professional areas to nations of *francophone* Africa," said Mr. De Bané. "This is one more example of how Canada is co-operating with these nations."

The Audit Services Bureau, established to provide various types of internal and external audits to meet the needs of managers within the Federal Government, has been in operation for 35 years. Its expertise extends beyond the financial and cost auditing into the areas of electronic data processing and comprehensive audits. It operates on cost recovery, charging its clients on a free-for-service basis.