

WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

Ministerial Meeting

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan attended the Eighth Ministerial Session of the World Food Council in Acapulco, Mexico from June 20 to 24. Items on the agenda recognized the "importance of national agri-food strategies for better internal coordination of agricultural and rural development" and the efforts of developing countries toward agricultural development (Agriculture Canada press release, June 18).

WORLD ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

Regina Gathering

The World Assembly of First Nations (WAFN) was held in Regina from July 18 to 25. It represented the "largest gathering of indigenous peoples in recorded history," with an estimated twenty thousand delegates from North, Central and South America, New Zealand, Australia, Greenland and Scandinavia (Inuit Tapirisat of Canada press release, June 10). The WAFN recognizes about two hundred million persons in one hundred countries (*Globe and Mail*, July 26).

Delegates took part in conferences on subjects ranging from politics and law to sports and recreation, and a variety of cultural events. Groups discussed a charter for self-determination, the International Covenant on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which some delegations want the United Nations to adopt (*Globe and Mail*, July 26). Leaders also made representations accusing some countries of implementing a stated policy of "exterminating" native people. Canada was charged by one leader with helping the Chilean government to "liquidate" Mapuche Indians by allowing helicopter sales to Chile (*Globe and Mail*, July 20).

THE GATT

Canada's Position

The Canadian position at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) ministerial meeting to be held in Geneva this November was the major topic of an address by International Trade Minister Ed Lumley to the Chamber of Commerce in Toronto June 22. The GATT, with more than eighty signatories, attempts to regulate trade barriers between countries. Mr. Lumley told the audience that he would soon present a document to Cabinet outlining the approach which Canada should adopt at the upcoming meeting. Canada "wants the international trading community to come to grips with a number of problems which were not dealt with or which were not handled in a satisfactory manner in earlier GATT negotiations," Mr. Lumley said. He mentioned several Canadian objectives for the meeting. They were:

— to ensure that newly-industrialized countries accept more obligations under the GATT;

— to reach a "safeguards agreement" which would ensure that foreign goods were not acted against unnecessarily, while elaborating on the GATT provisions regarding emergency protection against imports causing serious injury to a sector;

— to renew the effectiveness of the dispute settlement system;

— to improve and balance rules governing trade in agricultural products;

— to strengthen existing GATT codes;

— to provide better access for processed resource products.

The November meeting, which Canada will chair, is the first of its kind since 1973. Mr. Lumley said he hoped that the meeting will strengthen the international trading system. Violations of the GATT's principle of free trade have been said to be increasing. The *Globe and Mail* June 7 stated that "signatories are bending, breaching or simply ignoring the agreement to protect their economies from the world recession." The United States has filed two complaints with the GATT against Canada. It has asked the GATT to examine both the Foreign Investment Review Agency, and the subsidized export financing offered by the Export Development Corporation to Bombardier, Inc. of Montreal for a New York subway car contract (*Globe and Mail*, June 23). (See this issue, BILATERAL — US.)

AGREEMENTS

Tuna

Bluefin tuna quotas for Canadian fishermen were announced June 14, conforming to an agreement reached in February under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna. The February agreement had limited the three principal bluefin fishing countries — Canada, the US and Japan — to a total catch of 1,160 tonnes in both 1982 and 1983. Scientists feared that the western Atlantic tuna stocks were being depleted. The 1982 domestic allocation for Canada will be 250 tonnes compared with an allocation of 800 tonnes in 1981. Landings last year totalled only 313 tonnes (Fisheries and Oceans press release, June 14).

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Canadian Resolution in Geneva

Labour Minister Charles Caccia urged other delegates at the International Labour Conference in Geneva June 4 to adopt a "long term strategy for global employment." Mr. Caccia advocated an "intensified search for means to resolve problems related to international trade and development, action to fight poverty in developing countries, and action to promote social progress and fundamental human rights" (Labour Canada press release, June 4).