

scheduled for this autumn in Ottawa. Negotiations also would shortly be initiated to conclude a treaty on execution of penal sentences.

Views were exchanged on other matters of common interest such as respective relations of Mexico and of Canada with countries of Latin America and of the Caribbean region. Possible areas of joint co-operation in developing countries were also studied.

The two ministers confirmed the need to continue the close collaboration that has existed between Canada and Mexico in the United Nations in all matters relating to disarmament and, more especially, in the area of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, who was received by President José Lopez Portillo, reiterated the invitation extended by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, to visit Canada at a mutually convenient date.

### Government financial watch-dog

Treasury Board President Robert Andras has announced the Government's intention to create a position for a Comptroller General who would be the "chief financial administrator of the federal Public Service."

Mr. Andras told the House of Commons that this decision was made in keeping with a principal recommendation in the 1976 annual report of the Auditor General.

The Comptroller General would report directly to the President of the Treasury Board and would carry the rank and status of a deputy minister. In general terms, he would be responsible for the quality and integrity of the financial administrative policies and practices in use throughout the federal Public Service.

The major part of the responsibilities of the new office will comprise those which were assigned to the Financial Administration Branch of the Treasury Board Secretariat in March 1976. Mr. Andras said there would be a special "functional" relationship between the Comptroller General and the chief financial officers of departments, agencies and corporations to enable him to provide necessary guidance while maintaining the principle of de-

centralized management.

Mr. Andras made it clear that the entire responsibility for the control and direction of the resource allocation and control processes would not be changed, and would rest with the Secretary of the Treasury Board.

### Nuclear battle draws 1,500 onlookers

The fascinating and at times macabre theories behind the use of nuclear weapons were the subject of a fast-paced debate by William Epstein and Lieutenant-General Reg Lane recently at the University of Victoria, British Columbia.

Epstein, former director of the United Nations Secretariat Disarmament Division, and now a visiting professor of history at UVic, took the affirmative position of the resolution: "that nuclear weapons can no longer be relied upon as a deterrent to war." (Dr. Epstein was recently awarded the Order of the Aztec Eagle by Mexico, see *Canada Weekly* dated March 16, 1977.)

Lane, the ex-deputy Commander-in-Chief of NORAD, defended the statement before a crowd of some 1,500 people.

#### Affirmative view

Epstein defined deterrence as "the mutual assurance of destruction (MAD), no matter who strikes first."

He charged that deterrence had been used as a cloak or euphemism for a

continued escalation of the arms race. This, he said, in turn created insecurity, tension and, paradoxically, the increased danger of inadvertent war through human or mechanical error or terrorism.

Epstein was also concerned with the proliferation of nuclear weapons among smaller powers. The notion of deterrence won't apply to them, he said, because they would have only first-strike capability and enormous pressure to use it.

"In a multi-nuclear world deterrence won't work. The danger of war gets greater and greater and greater."

#### Opposing argument

Lane, on the other hand, argued that deterrence was not war but the prevention of war. Economic, political and psychological factors are all of deterrence policies.

"I like to think that these policies have stopped war," said Lane.

He went on to briefly outline the development of nuclear policy in the West, beginning with the idea of containment of Communist influence after the war, through to the "assured destruction" doctrine after the introduction of inter-continental ballistic missiles.

These policies have led to the present policy of realistic deterrence through counter-force, meaning that military sites and hardware are the targets of attack, not civilians.

Lane said the early policies were ef-

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### Soviet ships head for Toronto

Ships of the Soviet Union made 65 trips to the Port of Toronto during the 1976 shipping season to lead the parade of vessels engaged in overseas trade, according to figures released by the Toronto Harbour Commission.

Germany was second with 61, followed by Norway with 44 and Greece with 23.

It was the third year in a row that the U.S.S.R. ships have led Toronto's ocean traffic. In 1974 they made 53 calls at the port, followed by 64 in 1975.

A total of 339 overseas ships, representing 24 lines and flying the flags of 26 nations, entered port in 1976.

