

Committee on disarmament begins its 1980 session



United Nations

The United Nations Committee on Disarmament began its 1980 session recently at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The current session is expected to resume consideration of the question of nuclear test ban, cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, chemical weapons ban, prohibition of radiological weapons and security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States against nuclear attack. Donald McPhail (Canada), Chairman, urged Committee members to show "a spirit of goodwill and flexibility" in getting down to work. At the presiding table (left to right) are: G.A.H. Pearson (Canada), Jan Martenson, Assistant Secretary-General for the Centre for Disarmament; D.S. McPhail, Chairman; Rikhi Jaipal, Secretary; J.T. Simard (Canada) and Liang De-Fen (China).

Canadian-Spanish trade expected to surge ahead

After stagnant growth for much of the past decade, Canadian-Spanish trade surged ahead in 1979, and trade observers expect a continuation of that trend, along with some major changes in the composition of trade in the next few years, reports Mark Lukaszewicz in the *Globe and Mail*, January 14.

At the end of October, 1979, the total of two-way trade stood at \$218 million, more than 15 percent ahead of the entire year's total in 1978. Growth in previous years was more modest, in the order of 5 per cent annually.

One of the most notable increases resulted from iron ore sales by Sidbec-Dosco of Montreal, the Quebec government-owned steel company. Total iron ore exports rose from \$5.5 million in 1978 to \$23.5 million in the first ten months of 1979. Sponge iron sales totalled \$7.6 million in the ten months, up from zero in 1978.

Coal is probably the most promising

Canadian export item, according to a spokesman of the federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The first Canadian coal sale to Spain was worth \$4 million in 1978; last year, sales of coal were up to \$13 million by the end of October, accounted for mainly by Alberta coking coal.

Although coking coal will continue to be sold in increasing quantities, Spain is even more keenly interested in thermal coal for use in power generation. A Spanish trade mission visited Alberta and British Columbia in March to consider joint ventures in developing new coal mines. Exports of this type of coal could reach \$40-\$50 million annually in three or four years.

Other important export items are wood pulp (\$18.8 million in the first ten months of 1979), wheat (\$14.8 million), copper ore (\$16.8 million) and steel scraps (\$6.4 million). Exports of each of these items rose substantially from 1978.

University completes ocean study

Canada and the world in general know more about the international management of the oceans today than they did in the early part of the 1970s.

One of the organizations which has made a contribution to improving knowledge about the oceans is the University of British Columbia's Institute of International Relations.

The Institute, headed by political scientist Mark Zacher, has just completed a four-year project on Canada and the international management of the oceans and is about to begin another study focusing on Canada and international trade relations. This study is part of another project — Canada and International Trade Relations — announced earlier. It will involve 23 experts from three UBC faculties, Arts, Law, and Commerce and Business Administration, undertaking 18 separate research studies to produce an estimated 50 publications.

Major changes

Dr. Zacher said the UBC institute decided to embark on the oceans study in the early 1970s when some major international changes were imminent. "In retrospect," he said, "I'm sure we'll look back on the decade of the Seventies as the period which saw the most important changes that have ever occurred in ocean management."

The changes referred to by Dr. Zacher include the extension of jurisdiction by states over all resources to a limit of 200 miles off their coastlines, regulation of the uses of the ocean to prevent pollution, implementation of new navigational restrictions and regulation of the uses of the seabed for mining and military purposes.

These topics have been the subject of more than 50 books, articles and other publications which have been presented by 18 faculty members and seven research associates who were supported by a \$170,000-grant from the Donner Canadian Foundation of Toronto and additional funding from the Department of National Defence, the U.S. Rockefeller Foundation and the Canada Council.

Dr. Zacher believes the major contribution of the UBC project has been to help fill a notable gap in knowledge about oceans issues by generating a great deal of analysis and discussion.