

EC official visits Canada

The Vice-President and Commissioner (Social Affairs) of the Commission of the European Communities, Henk Vredeling visited Canada, September 3-7. He was accompanied by his Chef de Cabinet, Nel Barendregt, and by the principal administrator of Directorate General V, Social Affairs of the European Communities, Axel Bunz.

Mr. Vredeling met with the Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald and the Minister of Employment and Immigration, Ronald Atkey. He also held discussions with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Robert de Cotret, the Minister of Labour, Lincoln Alexander, and the Minister of State for Small Business and Industry, Ronald Huntington.

In addition, Mr. Vredeling met with other government representatives and spoke with staff of the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety about the possibility of exchanging information between that organization and the European Communities. Mr. Vredeling ended his visit in Toronto, where he toured a job-creation centre and a local industrial plant.

Canada/U.S. discuss West Coast fisheries problems

Canadian and U.S. officials met in Ottawa September 12 to discuss the problem of albacore tuna and related West Coast fisheries.

The talks were part of an ongoing series of discussions on fisheries issues on the West Coast of concern to the two governments. The two sides examined the possibility of reaching agreement for the 1979 tuna fishing season but decided that because of the short time remaining in the season it would not be feasible to do so.

The possibility of developing mutually acceptable fisheries arrangements next year, including access for U.S. tuna fishermen to albacore tuna in the Canadian 200-mile zone was discussed. Although no immediate solution was found, progress was made in clarifying the issues and in identifying possible avenues for future co-operation, both bilaterally and in continuing multilateral discussions on the management of tuna resources in the

Eastern Pacific Ocean. Government officials of both countries plan to meet again after they have had an opportunity to consult with fisheries interests on the West Coast.

The Canadian delegation was headed by Ambassador Marcel Cadieux, Special Negotiator for Canada/U.S. Maritime Boundaries and Related Resource Matters, and consisted of officials of the Departments of External Affairs and Fisheries and Oceans.

The U.S. delegation was headed by Ambassador John Negroponte, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries, accompanied by officials of the Department of State, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council and the State of Washington Department of Fisheries.

Delegation attends UN meeting

Canada was represented at the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology (UNCSTED) held in Vienna, August 20-31. Over 100 countries, which had been preparing for the conference for more than two years, were expected to send representatives to the international meeting.

The objective of the conference was to propose a set of practical measures for promoting maximum use of scientific and technical resources for development purposes, particularly to meet the needs of the developing countries.

The conference centred on the following themes:

- the role of science and technology in development, and the elimination of obstacles to their optimum utilization;
- institutional arrangements and new forms of international co-operation that might promote better application of science and technology;
- means of improving the use of the United Nations system;
- science, technology and the future.

The Canadian delegation, consisting of representatives from both the public and private sectors, was headed by Martial Asselin, Minister of State for the Canadian International Development Agency. James G. Harris, director general, Bureau of Development, Industry and Science Relations, Department of External Affairs, was deputy head of the delegation.

Oil export surplus to be assessed every month

The National Energy Board (NEB) will revert to a monthly determination of the surplus of Canadian crude oil available for export. United States authorities have already been notified of the decision which will take effect for export in October, Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Ray Hnatyshyn said.

He added that Canada was facing a situation of tight supply. Domestic demand for oil products, particularly motor gasoline, has risen this year more than had been anticipated, at a time when some supplies of crude oil previously imported were no longer available. Production from western Canada has been very close to maximum producibility. Total supply is now significantly dependent upon the operating levels of the two synthetic crude oil plants in Alberta.

Mr. Hnatyshyn said that "with the approach of peak seasonal demand, the NEB has concluded that in the circumstances, light crude exports cannot be licensed throughout the fourth quarter of the year at the present rate of 55,000 barrels a day", a level established last January but subject to continuous review since then. Under current legislation, only oil surplus to foreseeable needs for use in Canada may be exported.

Canadian refiners' demand for light domestic crude oil is also likely to be influenced by their need to rebuild inventories which have been reduced over the past year and also by the increase in the capacity of the Interprovincial Lakehead pipeline of some 65,000 barrels a day into Ontario, which is expected to be available in November. Although precise programs have yet to be laid out, it seems probable that demand in peak winter months will preclude light crude exports, said Mr. Hnatyshyn.

The Minister pointed out that "despite curtailment of the export level, Canadian crude could continue to flow to refiners in the northern tier of the United States through appropriate commercial oil swaps". Detailed discussions with United States officials of the change in export circumstances would take place promptly, he said. These will cover also the consideration being given to the inclusion of Canadian heavy crude oil in the existing range of oil exchanges with the United States.