

Energy

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ations to the President as he considers the matter.

Our own National Energy Board is not expected to provide its report until this summer — perhaps an uncomfortably short period before September 1, the date when the President must make his recommendation to Congress unless he avails himself of the extra discretionary time provided to him by the legislation.

It won't be an easy decision, that's very clear. There will be those who will argue that Canada could afford to put off such a decision for several years, that the discoveries in Alberta have bought us time. But what kind of time has been bought for Canadians? Has it changed in any way our priority to reduce our dependence on foreign oil? Indeed, have these new Alberta sources not assisted us in reducing our dependence on foreign oil? I would urge Canadians to keep in mind that unless we develop our own alternatives to foreign oil we will become increasingly dependent on that foreign oil. The one thing that doesn't change is our vulnerability, our dependence, on foreign oil.

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Stamp sculptures gift to UN

Postmaster-General Jean Jacques Blais presented the complete series of Olympic stamp sculptures in precious metal to United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim in New York on March 4, for the United Nations Postal Administration, to mark its twenty-fifth anniversary last year.

Mr. Blais also presented individual stamp sculptures to Mr. Waldheim,

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Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticario de Canadá.

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.

George Davidson, Under-Secretary-General, UN Administration and Management, Robert J. Ryan, Assistant-Secretary-General of the UN Office of General Services, and Ole Hamann, Chief of the UN Postal Administration.

"The international ramifications of the single organization we know as the United Nations Postal Administration make it unique among postal services anywhere," Mr. Blais said. "And so it is with a great deal of pride that I am able to point to my country's role in this global endeavour for, as you know, Mr. Waldheim, the Canadian Forces Post Offices, the functional arm of the Canadian Forces Postal Service,

operates the United Nations Postal Service in the Middle East for the majority of the peacekeeping forces serving in that theatre."

"This is not the only example of Canada's co-operation with the United Nations," he continued. "You may recall, that in 1967 an agreement was signed by my country to permit the UN to sell its own stamps during Expo 67 in Montreal. One further example of the United Nations link with Canada is that in the years 1974, 1975 and 1976 a Toronto, Ontario, firm was charged with the responsibility for printing 11 different United Nations stamps and two souvenir sheets...."

News briefs

■ Federal Health Minister Marc Lalonde announced on March 9 that the artificial sweetener saccharin would be banned from soft drinks, foods, cosmetics and certain drugs. He told a news conference action was taken against the food additive because it was not essential and could be replaced. After the Canadian ban was announced, the United States said it would follow suit, citing the three-year, \$300,000 study conducted by Canada's federal Health Department, which found high rates of bladder cancer among the male offspring of rats exposed to high levels of saccharin. The needs of the country's 175,000 diabetics have not been forgotten, said Mr. Lalonde, and some dietetic foods may be exempted from the ban. Pure saccharin will still be available, but will be sold behind the counter in drugstores.

■ Canada's gross national product in real terms declined at a 2.4 percent annual rate during the fourth quarter of 1976, according to Statistics Canada. The decline was attributed to a reduction in export volumes, in real business capital spending on construction and in real government spending on goods and services. A deceleration in inventory accumulation also played a role, though less significantly, in the reduction in real output in the economy. The decline in real GNP was the first since the 1974-75 recession, when real output declined almost 1 percent over six months.

■ Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan announced on March 4 that all pesticides sold, distributed and used in

Canada must now be registered under the Pest Control Products Act. Regulations under the act have been amended to revoke the exemption previously given to farmers and others importing pesticides for their own use. Canada had been the only country in the world allowing unregistered imports in this manner. Last year, about 2,000 farmers imported pesticides for their own use. Most of these were in Ontario close to the United States border.

■ The Unity Bank of Canada will disappear into the Montreal-based Provincial Bank of Canada if a proposed amalgamation of the two banks is completed. The two banks recently announced that their directors had agreed to recommend the amalgamation to their shareholders. Their joint statement said the Federal Government had accepted the move in principle. The new bank would retain the name of Provincial Bank of Canada. Each shareholder of the existing Provincial Bank would receive one share in the new organization in exchange for each of his present Provincial shares. Unity Bank shareholders would receive one new Provincial share for each 3.5 Unity shares held.

■ Cementos Selvalegre of Ecuador has awarded a contract worth almost \$24 million to Allis-Chalmers Canada Ltd. for construction of a cement plant.

■ Manpower and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen has announced a \$100,000-grant to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to help meet the employment service needs of blind Canadians. It was the second \$100,000-grant to the Institute in a year.