
France and Canada share knowledge of consumer affairs

Federal Consumer Affairs Minister Tony Abbott and Christiane Scrivener, France's Secretary of State for Consumer Affairs, have agreed to begin a special bilateral program of technical co-operation between their respective consumer departments.

The exchange of technical information related to the protection of consumers, and exchange visits by departmental officials will take place to compare methods of dealing with similar programs in both countries.

The two ministers reached the agreement at the conclusion of Mrs. Scrivener's two-day visit to Ottawa, last month.

During their discussions the ministers found that the problems and priorities of consumers in both France and Canada were very similar, and they decided that the program of technical exchanges should be implemented between their two departments.

Gillespie to chair IEA meeting

Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, has accepted an invitation to chair a ministerial meeting of the International Energy Agency's governing board in Paris on October 5 and 6.

Ministers of the 19 member nations will consider the IEA's program of long-term co-operation on energy and act on proposed group objectives and principles.

The International Energy Agency came into being in November 1974 as a result of an "agreement on an international energy program". Although the main activity in 1974 was an agreement for the sharing of oil supply in time of crisis, considerable attention was also given to longer range energy supply problems.

The Standing Group on Long-Term Co-operation (SLT) developed into the most active of several IEA committees and, as a result, a separate program for long-term co-operation was added to the treaty in January 1976. This program is designed to create co-operative efforts to reduce the demand for imported oil through conservation, accelerated development of alternate sources of energy,

and through energy research and development.

A major activity of the SLT has been to develop "group objectives and principles for energy policy", which will be the main items for consideration at the ministerial meeting.

Mr. Gillespie will also report on domestic measures that Canada has already taken to diminish its dependence on overseas energy sources. These include measures to conserve energy in homes and industry, increases in the price of domestic crude oil and natural gas, encouragement of exploration and development of Canadian oil and gas resources in conventional and frontier areas, and increased research and development programs on renewable energy resources.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Gillespie will visit renewable energy projects in Europe.

Inuit enter language dispute

As this issue went to press, the Quebec government and Quebec's 8,000 Inuit were in open disagreement after the passage of the government's language legislation, Bill 101. The Inuit, through the Northern Quebec Inuit Association, say the provincial government has defaulted on promises made earlier this year that Inuit would be allowed to continue to use English whenever they wished.

While English-language pressure groups were demanding that the Federal Government test Bill 101 in the Supreme Court, Inuit from 13 Hudson Bay and Ungava Bay communities gathered at Fort Chimo, Quebec to discuss plans for the creation of self-governing native federations. Essential services have been denied the few remaining provincial employees in the area, (some complied with the Inuits' wishes and left the community), and provincial police have sent officers to monitor signs of civil unrest.

Presidents of five regional Inuit organizations have offered official support to the Northern Quebec Inuit, as has the World Council of Indigenous People, which represents native people of 23 countries.

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Warren Allmand, who has declined to intervene directly in the provincial matter, feels that "while the amendments made to Bill 101 by the Quebec government for the Cree and the Inuit might protect their language rights as agreed to

under the James Bay settlement [under federal jurisdiction], they do not protect all the language rights they exercised prior to Bill 101. Examples of this are the rights of Inuit in Quebec outside the James Bay settlement territory and the rights of migrating Inuit in Quebec who are not beneficiaries under the James Bay settlement."

Quebec premier René Lévesque has not yet agreed to meet with native spokesmen in Fort Chimo, who insist that services will not be restored for provincial employees in the area until the premier begins negotiation in person.

Canada and Egypt discuss energy

A wide variety of bilateral economic interests, including energy, trade and technological co-operation, were discussed by senior government representatives of Egypt and Canada earlier this month.

Meetings took place during the visit to Canada, September 5 to 10, of the Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister for Production and Minister for Electric Power and Energy, Ahmed Sultan, and three other specialists in energy production, Maher Abaza, First Under-Secretary, Ministry of Electricity and Energy; Adli Yakan, head of the Qattara Project; and Kamal Nabieh, Deputy Chairman of the Electricity Corporation. They met with representatives of the Departments of External Affairs; Industry, Trade and Commerce; Energy, Mines and Resources; the Canadian International Development Agency; and the Export Development Corporation. This is the second time a senior member of the Egyptian Government has visited Canada; the first was when Mahmoud Riad, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, came here in 1968.

After three days in the capital, the Egyptian delegation travelled to Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara Falls, where they discussed with provincial government officials and the business community, opportunities for furthering economic and technical co-operation between Canada and Egypt, particularly in the energy field.

During a ten-day tour of five countries of the Middle East in January 1976, Allan J. MacEachen, former Secretary of State for External Affairs, met in Cairo with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Canada and Egypt first exchanged ambassadors in 1955.