

## Canada-Zairean bilateral meeting

The first meeting of the Canada-Zairean bilateral commission took place in Ottawa, November 23-25.

The Zaire delegation was led by Lengema Dulia Yubasa Makanga, Secretary of State for International Co-operation of Zaire. The Canadian delegation was led by Minister of State Serge Joyal.

During his visit to Canada, Mr. Lengema held private discussions on Canada-Zairean relations with Mr. Joyal

and Minister of Regional and Economic Expansion Pierre De Bané. Mr. De Bané hosted a dinner on behalf of the Canadian government in honour of Secretary of State Lengema and the Zairean delegation. The Secretary of State for International Co-operation of Zaire also met with Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs Jacques Gignac.

The Canadian and Zairean representatives expressed their desire to expand and further develop Canada-Zairean relations, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

The two sides discussed ongoing pro-

jects in their co-operation program and laid the foundation for future operations based on two priority sectors, namely rural development and forestry. The Zairean side expressed its satisfaction with Canada's decision to continue to provide support for projects under way and to increase its financial and technical assistance by the introduction of new co-operation mechanisms.

The parties examined a number of new projects that would contribute to the economic and social development of Zaire in the coming years. Canada gave assurances that it would co-operate towards achieving the goals that had been set, within the limits of the available financial and human resources.

The two delegations also looked at the state of trade relations between the two countries and agreed to seek ways of increasing the volume of exchanges.

## Yuletide stamps bear Christmas trees

This year's Christmas postage stamps issued by Canada Post Corporation mark the bicentennial of the first illuminated Canadian Christmas tree erected at Sorel, Quebec by a German family.

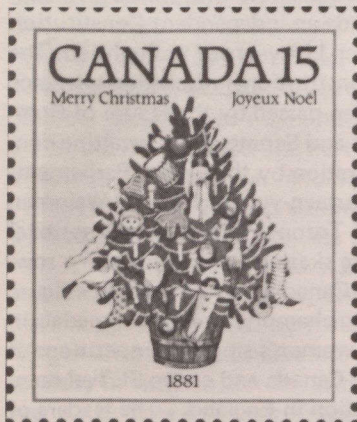
"Canadians of German descent have actively participated for over 300 years in the economic, social, and cultural development of Canada. The introduction of the illuminated Christmas tree stands as one of their more visible and lasting contributions to our Canadian traditions and way of life," said André Ouellet, Minister responsible for Canada Post Corporation.



In 1781 at Sorel, Quebec, Friederike von Riedesel and her husband Friedrich introduced the illuminated Christmas tree to Canada. Major General Friedrich von Riedesel came to Canada with his wife and children in 1776. He was in charge of a contingent of German troops sent to help put down the American revolution. But he was captured by the Americans and along with his family spent two years in captivity and two further years in the United States before returning to Quebec in 1781 to a posting in Sorel.

### Idea becomes widespread

To celebrate Christmas, Friederike Riedesel had the idea of putting up an illuminated tree.



The idea caught on, and by the late nineteenth century even settlers on the prairies regarded a tree as an essential part of the Yuletide festivities. Thus, introduced in French Canada by the wife of a German general working for the English, the Christmas tree idea spread across the whole country.

The three 15-cent stamps were designed by Toronto artist Anita Kunz, a Canadian of German ancestry. The 1781 stamp features a tree decorated with ornaments that might have been used by the Baroness Friederike von Riedesel; the 1881 stamp, a tree with late nineteenth century decorations; and the 1981 stamp, a modern tree with glass balls and electric lights.



## Doll doctoring

"The eyes are in good condition. That's important. We'll mould that finger on."

Those comforting, vaguely medical words are the kind of thing Olive Matheson has found herself saying many times since she opened the Windsor Doll Hospital before the Second World War.

"There's a need for someone to repair dolls. A doll to a child is like a person."

Miss Matheson started her career as a doll doctor when she was in Toronto looking for work and chanced to visit a doll hospital where she was offered a job.

"I wasn't particularly interested in dolls," she says now. But her interest grew and when she moved to Windsor, Ontario she set up a shop with a red cross on the door.

She soon found out how impatient some of her young customers can be.

The case of one father and daughter is typical. "They were there at eight in the morning waiting for me. Something had fallen off the doll and the child had wanted to go to hospital at 1 a.m. The father had been up with her all night," said Miss Matheson, who now works out of her home.

"People will bring in the same doll year after year to be restored because the child likes that particular doll. They want the hair shampooed or curled. Sometimes older people bring in dolls to have them fixed up to hand down to the next generation," she said.