

## Canada at UNCTAD IV

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, heads the Canadian delegation to the Fourth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IV) which began May 3 in Nairobi, Kenya. He is accompanied by Michel Dupuy, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. The deputy head of delegation is Geoffrey Bruce, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York and Canadian Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Officials from the Departments of Finance, Industry, Trade and Commerce, Agriculture, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, and External Affairs make up the delegation; in addition are representatives of each of the four parties in Parliament who attended the opening week of the Conference as observers.

UNCTAD IV, which ends May 28, will carry forward consideration of proposals for a new international economic order which were initiated at the sixth and seventh special sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in 1974 and 1975. Discussions at the Conference are expected to centre on commodity trade, financial issues including debt, access to markets, and the transfer of technology.

Special attention will also be paid to the economic situation of the least developed of the developing countries.

Ministers from more than 100 third world countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East met recently in Manila to prepare a statement of their position to submit formally to the Conference.

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The discussions and the conclusions of the Conference will give direction to the further work of UNCTAD and will be pertinent to the Conference on International Economic Co-operation of which Mr. MacEachen is co-chairman.

## News briefs

- The House of Commons began debate, May 4, on a bill to abolish capital punishment proposed by Solicitor-General Warren Allmand. It would impose a life sentence for first-degree murder, with a minimum prison term of 25 years. The vote is expected to be close.
- Under the terms of a new \$2.4-million contract between the Nigerian Government and the Canadian Commercial Corporation, 17 Canadians will work in Nigeria for up to 18 months on a management-development program for the Public Service Review Commission of Nigeria. The Bureau of Management Consultation, a branch of the Department of Supply and Services, provided the consultants.
- A bill to freeze the salaries and expense allowances of MPs and senators for one year was given approval in principle after a stormy debate in the Commons May 3. Treasury Board President Jean Chrétien said that holding MPs' salaries at \$24,000 and expense allowances at \$10,600 would mean "a great sacrifice" for some who are struggling to make ends meet, but that it was necessary to set an example.
- Seventy-three countries have confirmed they will attend the UN Conference on Human Settlements – Habitat – opening in Vancouver May 31, says Duccio Turin, deputy secretary-general of the Habitat secretariat. The final attendance total will probably be more than 120 states.
- Inco Limited is the new name for the International Nickel Company of Canada Limited. Shareholders, who approved the name change at the firm's annual meeting, April 21, also decreased the number of directors from 25 to 22.
- Air Canada had a record \$12.4-million loss in 1975 and faces tough times again this year, says Pierre Tasche-reau, acting chairman. This second consecutive loss was due largely to a

world-wide economic slump which undermined business and leisure travel.

- The premiers of the four western provinces – British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba – announced a seven-point outline for economic co-operation on April 29. After a two-day conference, the premiers said an economic development strategy would include more co-operation in marketing western skills and products in foreign countries, common pressure on the Federal Government for a transportation system to encourage western development and western input in international tariff negotiations.
- The first of two volumes that tell the story of McMaster University since its founding in 1887 went on sale at bookstores April 15. Entitled *McMaster University, The Toronto Years*, this book and its forthcoming companion volume are the work of Dr. C.M. Johnston, Professor of History at McMaster. The first volume covers the history of the university from its founding until its move from Toronto to Hamilton in 1930.
- Immigration Minister Andras said recently high immigration priority was being given to residents of war-torn Lebanon if they had relatives in Canada. He said an immigration officer returned to Beirut since the Canadian Embassy was closed there and was handling files on about 200 potential immigrants.
- Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Buchanan said the Federal Government needed more information on the amount of natural gas available in the Far North to justify building a Mackenzie Valley pipeline. This was why Ottawa gave Dome Petroleum Ltd permission to start offshore drilling in the Beaufort Sea, he said. So far, only a two-year supply of natural gas had been found.
- The Export Development Corporation has agreed to loan up to \$1.51 million to Turkey for the purchase of 11 truck-mounted rotary drilling units from a company in Edmonton, Alberta. Turkey will use the equipment for construction, foundation and water-drilling.
- At May 5, in the National Hockey League semi-finals, Montreal was leading New York Rangers by three games to one in the best-of-seven series; Philadelphia was leading Boston three games to one.