

# EXPO 86 news and events

## B.C.'s SkyTrain rolling on the rails



Attendants watch as SkyTrain bursts the welcoming banners at a station on its initial run from Vancouver's waterfront at EXPO 86 to the suburbs of New Westminster.

On January 3, SkyTrain, the longest automated rapid transit system in North America, began a regular schedule transporting passengers 21.4 kilometres between the waterfront in Vancouver, British Columbia, south-east to New Westminster.

The route includes stops at 15 stations, two of them on EXPO 86 site, every four to six minutes between 5 a.m. and 1 a.m. six days a week with limited service on Sundays. A SkyTrain official said the run can be made

in "27 minutes and two seconds".

At the inaugural run, made by B.C. Premier Bill Bennett and Ontario Premier David Peterson, Mr. Bennett said SkyTrain is a part of a whole package of exciting developments on show at EXPO 86.

The computer-controlled trains were developed by Ontario's Urban Transportation Development Corporation for B.C. Transit. Construction of the system took 3.5 years and cost \$854 million.

Don Scott, Vancouver Sun

## Commonwealth Day marked

March 10 was observed for the tenth year as Commonwealth Day in Canada by a varied program including an interfaith service. The Commonwealth is an association embracing 49 countries of varying races, religions and cultures, representing a quarter of mankind. In the House of Commons, Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark marked the occasion with a statement outlining its importance to Canada. Following are excerpts:

For years the Commonwealth has provided international leadership in the movement against *apartheid* in South Africa. At the last heads of government meeting in Nassau, its members agreed to a common program of action designed to speed the abandonment of racial segregation and promote the establishment of representative government in that country. The Commonwealth is also playing a key role in maintaining North/South dialogue and in focusing attention on the economic and debt problems of the world's poorest nations. In emphasizing the need to integrate women as full partners in the economic development process the Commonwealth has been in the vanguard.

Canada needs the Commonwealth, and Canadians by temperament are well-suited to playing a leadership role there. A nation's foreign policy is grounded in the needs, interests, aspirations and talents of its people. We in Canada are fortunate to have two official languages and many different cultural and ethnic traditions. We have built a country which is second to none in its respect for the rights of others, and most especially for the right to a life of dignity regardless of race, religion or creed.

It is no coincidence that the Commonwealth mirrors so accurately these fundamental Canadian values. We were there at the founding and we have been active and vigorous participants from the very beginning. More than any other multilateral institution, the Commonwealth has been shaped by Canadian values and reflects the motive forces of Canadian foreign policy.

This country abhors the repugnant system of *apartheid*.... In Nassau last year, Canada's prime minister decisively fashioned the Commonwealth Accord on Southern Africa....

In Nassau, we set a timetable for the dismantling of *apartheid* and the initiation of reforms. We established a group of eminent persons to facilitate dialogue and work for power-sharing arrangements to avert a catastrophe in South Africa....

The Commonwealth has been important to the pursuit of other Canadian foreign

## Stamps reflect exposition theme

Four stamps depicting the communications and transportation theme of EXPO 86 are being issued to mark the world exposition. Two stamps were released by Canada Post on March 7 and another two will be issued on April 28.

The Canada Pavilion is featured on the 34-cent stamp issued March 7. Chairman of the Board of Canada Post Corporation René J. Marin, said the Canada Pavilion is "the flagship of EXPO 86, inside which visitors from around the world will witness the giant strides Canadians have made in transportation, communications, the arts and entertainment".

The second issue is a 39-cent stamp, the rate for first class mail to the United States. It depicts the communications aspect of the exposition theme "World in motion - world in touch".

