

Oil and gas exploration

A new Canadian-controlled company, ATS Exploration Limited, has been formed to undertake exploration for oil and gas on Canada lands in the North and off the east coast, Energy Minister Jean Chrétien and R.D. Southern, president and chief executive office of ATCO Ltd. have announced.

ATCO, a broadly diversified Canadian company with extensive operations in the petroleum industry, and Sun Life Assurance Company each hold 37.5 per cent of the voting shares in the new company, with Texaco Canada Resources Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Texaco Canada Inc., holding the balance.

Mr. Chrétien said that establishment of the company will result in extensive participation by Canadians in exploration, both in the North and off the east coast. "An important aim of federal energy policy is to encourage greater Canadian participation in oil and gas exploration and development. This agreement is welcome on two counts because it not only increases Canadian participation, but marks the entry of a significant new Canadian company into frontier exploration and development."

Quadrilateral trade talks

Ways of maintaining and strengthening the international trading system were reviewed at a meeting of Canadian, European Community, Japanese and United States trade ministers in Ottawa, September 26 and 27.

The meeting was chaired by the Canadian Minister of State (International Trade) Gerald Regan and was attended by US Ambassador William E. Brock, Vice-President and Commissioner for External Relations of the Commission of the European Community Wilhelm Haferkamp, and Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry Sosuke Uno.

The Ottawa meeting provided an opportunity for ministers to review the general trade situation. Prospects and possibilities for dismantling trade barriers and for making further progress in trade liberalization were discussed. This included ways of further strengthening the various codes negotiated in the Tokyo Round and means of providing for the transparency of safeguard actions not subject to the requirements of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Princess Margriet of the Netherlands returns to wartime birthplace



Princess Margriet of the Netherlands (left) is welcomed by Speaker of the House of Commons Jeanne Sauv e as she enters the Parliament buildings.

Princess Margriet of the Netherlands made a nostalgic return to Ottawa, her wartime birthplace, during an official five-day visit to Canada from September 27 to October 2.

The 40-year-old daughter of Princess Juliana, later Queen, was born in the Ottawa Civic Hospital which was declared Netherlands territory for the historic first birth of a royal baby in Canada.

Princess Juliana named her third daughter after the marguerite, the daisy used as a symbol by Dutch resistance fighters while their country was occupied by the Nazis.

Princess Juliana sought refuge in Canada in 1940 when her homeland was overrun, leaving her husband Prince Bernard in England to fight with Netherlands forces.

She repaid Ottawa for the hospitality with thousands of Dutch tulips that bloom throughout the national capital every spring.

After the royal family returned home in 1945, Princess Margriet made several

official and unofficial visits to Canada, having developed an interest in the Arctic.

Her commoner husband Pieter van Vollenhoven produced a television documentary on the 1974 North American dogsled championships and a second documentary two years later on national parks.

Prior to their arrival in Ottawa, the Princess and her husband spent two days in Quebec City as guests of Governor General Edward Schreyer and former members of the Royal 22nd Regiment who helped liberate her homeland.

From Ottawa, they travelled to Toronto where the Princess opened an exhibition of Dutch paintings at the Art Gallery of Ontario. She also attended a ground-breaking ceremony at the Holland Christian Homes in Brampton, a retirement home outside Toronto. Many of the inhabitants belong to the community of nearly half a million Canadians of Dutch origin who emigrated to Canada after the war.