
Canadians stay on in UN Middle East force

Canada continues its participation in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Middle East for a further period of six months, effective November 30.

The United Nations Security Council extended the mandate of the peace-keeping force until May 30, 1979. UNDOF, established in May 1974, is part of the Disengagement Agreement between Israel and Syria following the war of October 1973.

Stationed on the Golan Heights in addition to the 160-man Canadian contingent are contingents from Austria, Iran and Poland.

Canada has also extended its commitment to the United Nations Emergency Force in the Sinai. A total of some 1,000 Canadians serve in three United Nations peacekeeping missions in the Middle East.

Unique club for women

When Isabel Beveridge left her native Scotland in 1967 and settled in Canada, she had little money and some secretarial training, but this was offset by plenty of ambition and a head full of bright ideas. Seven years later, at age 27, she became the founder and owner of 21 McGill, a women's club in downtown Toronto. It is believed to be the only club of its kind in Canada, and possibly in the world. "In no other country have I found anything like it," says much-travelled Hanne Jensen, assistant trade commissioner at the Royal Danish Consulate.

Ms. Beveridge hopes to open a similar club in New York City soon. The owner is convinced that women want an elegant place of their own where they can make friends, entertain business partners, find intellectual stimulation and physical fitness programs or perhaps enjoy summer evenings dancing on the terrace.

Male guests

Men are barred from the pool and spa facilities but are welcome guests in the restaurants and seminar rooms of the old building. "My husband enjoys coming here," said a woman who heads her own company. "We both work downtown and often meet here for dinner before going

out with friends. I come immediately after work and swim, perhaps have a massage or a manicure, or sometimes just lie down in the sleeping room for half an hour. I like to wash my hair here too. It's so easy with shampoo and towels, bathrobes, blowdryers and curling irons — everything provided."

"The club offers something for everyone," said a young mother after watching her toddler racing a toy car in the club's spacious nursery. He is looked after for a few hours so that his mother is free to spend time in the ceramics room getting her clay pots ready for the kiln. His grandmother is also a club member and is conscientiously following her fitness program, designed by a qualified instructor to meet her special needs.

21 McGill has attracted more than 1,700 members — women of all ages and backgrounds. Some of them have had to economize to pay the \$700 initiation fee. But after that, it is \$400 a year. "Quite a bargain," explains one member. "Where else could you go from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. seven days a week, and be surrounded with fresh flowers and such luxury, use a jogging track, a whirlpool, a sauna, swim in an Olympic-size pool, get expert advice on nutrition, sewing, painting and antiques? Where else could you meet so many interesting people? And all this for less than \$35 a month!"

(By Lilo Wolf, for Canadian Scene, November 17, 1978.)

Call for response to criticism of Canada's education system

Secretary of State John Roberts has challenged the ten provincial governments to overcome the deficiencies described by two reports severely criticizing Canada's education system.

"The provinces must come to grips with this crisis in education," Mr. Roberts told a conference on the humanities in society, at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa on November 22.

"We have never conceived our educational system as a mechanism which can be used to achieve some desired goals for our country. We lack, in effect, an explicit, over-all conception of our country's objectives and purposes," said Mr. Roberts.

According to reports of the Organization for Economic Development and the Commission on Canadian Studies (the

Symons report), Canada lacked an education system which is "goal-oriented", said the minister, and "we have failed in our educational system to develop the sense of identity which is so necessary for our national survival; we do not have co-ordinated functioning educational policies which tie our educational systems together".

Mr. Roberts said Canada had "learned from the past that our compartmentalized educational systems are not sensitive enough to national interests or national problems".

"Today, confronted by the Symons and OECD reports, one would hope that the ten provinces would respond in a co-ordinated manner," he said.

Mr. Roberts also announced that the Federal Government would, subject to Parliamentary approval, provide grants for a three-year review of Canadian studies as its response to the report of the Commission on Canadian Studies.

The Canada Studies Foundation will receive \$290,000 for the first year and \$210,000 for the second year of a two-year grant; the Association of Canadian Studies will receive \$40,000 a year for three years; and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges will receive \$325,000 a year over three years.

Canfarm transfer nears completion

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has announced that the Government has agreed in principle to the takeover of the Canfarm Service Agency by Canfarm Co-Operative Services, a group composed of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and several co-operatives. "Negotiations with the producer group are well under way," Mr. Whelan said.

While the Government has indicated its willingness to provide the new owners with initial backing and support through existing programs, Canfarm Co-Operative Services expect to be self-supporting within three years.

Canfarm provides three main services: Farm Records, a farm accounting system; Data Bank, which stores and retrieves data from the record system for education, extension research, and policy purposes; and Farm Planning, which gives information on the improvement of farm management, in areas including feed formulation, financial planning and machinery management.