

## GUATEMALA

### **Negative Vote on Loan Urged**

NDP Members of Parliament urged the government to vote against a proposed loan to Guatemala during October. On October 12, NDP external affairs critic Pauline Jewett wrote to External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen, stating, "It has come to my attention that the Inter-American Development Bank will soon consider a major loan to the government of Guatemala. The application is for a loan from the bank's Fund for Special Operations at an interest rate probably below 4 percent and over a twenty to forty-year term." The loan application was for the financing of a rural telephone system, which Miss Jewett said would be likely used mostly for the benefit of that government's security forces, not for the benefit of the rural population. A day earlier, Amnesty International, Canadian Section (English Speaking), had issued a press release in which it charged that Guatemalan forces had massacred more than 2,600 Indian and peasant farmers following a new counter-insurgency program launched in March. Miss Jewett said that although Canada bases its loan application decisions on "technical, social and economic grounds," this country should oppose the loan on human rights grounds. On October 27, this request was repeated in a motion by Bob Ogle (NDP, Saskatoon East) in the House of Commons.

## GUINEA

### **Visit to Canada of President**

His Excellency Ahmed Sékou Touré, President of the Popular Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, visited Canada from October 30 to November 6. He was accompanied by Mrs. Touré and a large ministerial delegation. An External Affairs press release (November 8) stated, "This first visit of the Guinean President to Canada marked a new and significant phase in relations between Guinea and Canada. The furthering of political relations brought about by the visit was a logical sequel to the excellent economic relations that have existed for many years. It is natural for two countries both having French as an official language to intensify their relations at all levels and in all fields." Talks held by Prime Minister Trudeau and Governor-General Schreyer with Mr. Touré were in a spirit of solidarity and mutual respect, and indicated that a considerable similarity of viewpoint existed on all the questions dealt with, such as North-South dialogue, Namibia, the South African apartheid policy, and trouble spots in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world. The leaders also agreed to increase relations in all sectors, especially development cooperation and economic exchanges. Several avenues of activity for development cooperation were outlined in the press release.

## HONDURAS

### **Protection for Refugees**

A representation was made by Canadians concerned

about the protection of Salvadoran refugees who have fled to Honduras, to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) October 15 in Geneva. The Canadian Inter-Church Committee for Refugees urged the UNHCR to persuade Honduras to sign the International Refugee Convention and Protocol (*Globe and Mail*, October 15). Honduran military forces had been accused of attacking against refugees in Honduras. In the House of Commons November 25, Dan Heap (NDP, Spadina) asked the Canadian government to urge the UNHCR to send more representatives to Honduras to protect the Salvadoran refugees and asked Canada's External Affairs Minister to urge the government of Honduras, "which receives generous aid from Canada," to sign the UN refugee convention.

## IRAQ

### **Cooperation Agreement**

A bilateral Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement was signed November 12 between Canada and Iraq. In Baghdad, External Relations Minister Charles Lapointe signed on behalf of Canada and Iraqi Minister of Trade, His Excellency Hassan Ali, signed on behalf of Iraq. "In addition to setting forth an agreed means of strengthening, expanding and diversifying trade, economic and technical cooperation between Canada and Iraq, the Agreement calls for the formation of a Joint Economic Commission," an External Affairs press release (November 12) stated.

## JAPAN

### **Foreign Ministers Meet**

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi was in Ottawa October 6 to participate in the Third Annual Canada-Japan Foreign Ministers' Consultations. At a news conference that day, Mr. Sakurauchi said, "Greater efforts are needed to get rid of protectionism and promote free trade at a time when the world economy is facing severe problems . . . and Canada is suffering from unprecedented economic difficulties." He described his talk with External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen as "frank, but very fruitful." Canadian exports to Japan had increased in the first half of this year over last year, he said, but Japanese exports to Canada had decreased. "We are fully aware that our volume of exports to Canada could be much better, but I did not raise this matter with Mr. MacEachen because Canada's economy is not in very good shape," the Minister told reporters (*The Citizen*, October 7).

### **Grain Mission**

A "goodwill" visit to Japan in October by Senator Hazen Argue, Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, and a contingent of nine, was a tremendous success, according to the Minister. "The purpose of the visit was to gain first-hand information about the requirements of the Japanese market and to assure Japanese grain buyers that Canada places a great deal of impor-

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