

Visit to drought-stricken countries of West Africa

Garson N. Vogel, executive director of the World Food Program, visited three of the most affected countries of the drought-stricken countries of the Sahelian Zone of West Africa, recently with three senior WFP officials from Rome.

Mr. Vogel, a native of Winnipeg, Manitoba, took office last October and wished to gain first-hand knowledge of an area of the Third World which has been affected by drought for ten years, a situation which culminated in the 1972/73 disaster.

On November 1, 1977, the WFP assumed responsibility for the co-ordination and monitoring of all food aid, multi-lateral and bilateral, to the Sahelian Zone of West Africa which comprises The Cape Verde, Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Upper Volta.

In Dakar, Mr. Vogel held working sessions with all WFP staff stationed in the Sahel; he also attended other sessions dealing with emergency food aid.

Two days were spent in Mauritania, where Mr. Vogel met with President Moktar Ould Daddah and discussed the country's food supply position with the Minister of Rural Development and the senior officials responsible for emergency aid.

In Senegal, Mr. Vogel was received by President Senghor with whom he discussed not only the general situation in Senegal, but the key role of the Port of Dakar in ensuring the timely deliveries of supplies to the neighbouring countries of The Gambia, Mali and Mauritania.

In the Gambia, after an audience with the President, Mr. Vogel held discussions with the Vice-President, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Education and senior officials.

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Ahnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.

News briefs

Countless foreign journalists who have been in Canada as part of the Department of External Affairs visits program will be among the many friends and colleagues who were saddened by the sudden death of Muriel Ann Corbet, M.V.O. on February 16. Mrs. Corbet had been head of Visits Section, Information Services Division, since April 1974.

Cameron Irwin McIntosh, president of McIntosh Publishing Co. Ltd. and publisher of a twice-weekly newspaper, has been appointed Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. Mr. McIntosh, at 51 the youngest lieutenant governor in Canada, succeeds George Porteous, who died in February, leaving the province with no one who could legally give royal assent to government documents.

The Export Development Corporation has signed a financing agreement of \$9.4 million to support a \$10.6-million sale by CAE Electronics Ltd., Montreal, to Morocco of three flight training simulators. Some 190 man-years of employment will be generated in the Montreal area from the sale, which will allow CAE Electronics to maintain its work force of about 850 people in the machine shop.

Preliminary figures show that the number of adults held in jail at December 31, 1976 was 11,884 — 11,462 males and 422 females.

Ivan Head, a lawyer and former diplomat and professor, has been named president of the International Development Research Centre, a federal agency that conducts and supports research into problems of developing regions. He replaces W. David Hopper, who resigned in December to take a senior position at the World Bank in Geneva. Mr. Head, 47, was a special adviser to the Prime Minister on foreign affairs for ten years.

Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 8.3 per cent in January from 8.5 per cent in December. The rate in January 1977 was 7.5 per cent. The adjusted employment level reached 9,866,000 in January, up 24,000 from the December figure. Unemployment stood at 891,000, a decrease of 20,000 from that of the previous month.

A preliminary survey of profits of publicly-owned Canadian corporations indicates that after-tax operating profits looked considerably better in 1977 than they did in either 1976 or 1975. The in-

crease last year was almost as large as that recorded in 1974. Combined profits of the 95 companies surveyed were almost \$3 billion, up 15.1 percent over the 1976 total. The increase followed a 2.8 percent gain in 1976, a 5.2 percent decline in 1975 and a 20 percent increase in 1974. Considered in real rather than nominal terms, 1977 was the first year in three years that a real gain was recorded, but it was not sufficient to offset the real declines recorded in the preceding two years.

Nova Scotia's first major mining operation in 30 years — the Gay's River lead-zinc property — will be put into production by Esso Minerals Canada Ltd. at a cost of \$27 million.

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin and the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of the Polish People's Republic, Dr. Marian Sliwinski, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries that will provide for exchange visits and co-operation between specialists, scientists and health professionals in the public health, health care delivery and medical sciences fields. This co-operation will include mutual participation in conferences and symposia, liaison between research institutions in both countries and closer ties between medical societies.

The Montreal Canadiens have broken a National Hockey League record by maintaining a winning streak of 24 games so far this season. The previous mark of 23 was set by the Boston Bruins during the 1940-41 season and equalled by the Philadelphia Flyers during the 1975-76 campaign.

Two Canadian-made de Havilland DHC-7s (DASH-7s) have been purchased by the Canadian Armed Forces. The 50-seat, four-engined Short-Take-Off-and-Landing (STOL) aircraft, to be used in a passenger and freight transport role by the Canadian Forces in West Germany, will replace a Canadian CC-109 Cosmopolitan, a twin-engined turboprop transport assigned to Canadian Forces Europe on a regular rotating basis from Canada. The Cosmo entered service in 1960.

An Ontario man who recently pleaded guilty to three counts of trafficking in marijuana has had more than his share of bad luck recently. Not only did undercover RCMP agents put an end to his operation, but squirrels, nesting in his "stock room", managed to eat about \$300-worth of his merchandise.