

## Language minorities' assistance

(Continued from P. 2)

- availability in English and French of publicly-funded broadcasting;
- opportunities for all Canadians to pursue their personal goals either in Canada's English-speaking community, or its French-speaking community, or in both.

\* \* \* \*

### "Mécanisme d'accueil"

The *mécanisme d'accueil* is intended to provide an opportunity for dialogue, communication and consultation with the French-speaking minorities in the implementation of the Secretary of State's programs for official language minorities. It is an important mandate of the Secretary of State to assume the role of spokesman for the *francophones* outside Quebec and to transmit, if need be, their requests and comments to his Cabinet colleagues in cooperation with the Members of Parliament who share these concerns.

The second important element of that *mécanisme* is the establishment of an interdepartmental committee to be chaired by the Assistant Under-Secretary of State for Citizenship and Bilingualism Development. The committee will be made up of senior officials from the Department of Employment and Immigration, the Department of National Health and Welfare, the Federal-Provincial Relations Office, the Privy Council Office, the Treasury Board Secretariat, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and other federal agencies, as necessary. This committee will report to the Cabinet through the Secretary of State.

The members of that committee will report directly to me every six months and I will submit a report each year to the Cabinet on its activities. The role of the committee will be to assist the Federal Government in developing sound policies

*Canada Weekly* is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to (Mrs.) Miki Sheldon, Editor.

*Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.*

*Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.*

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

and programs based on the principles I have referred to above. The third element, is the integration, within one directorate in the Department of the Secretary of State, of the language programs branch and the social action branch. A senior official to be appointed to that directorate will also act as secretary of the interdepartmental committee. In each region

### Students' rights supported

The 66-member provincial council of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation recently voted to support the right of all Ontario students to be taught either in English or French.

The Federation represents some 37,000 secondary school teachers in Ontario.

an officer of the Secretary of State will be designated to act as a channel of communication to government for the special concerns of official language minorities. I must however state clearly that his *mécanisme d'accueil* will not supersede the traditional role of the Members of Parliament as representatives of their constituents. As in the past, each group or individual can of course still go to his M.P. for assistance. It is hoped that the effect of the *mécanisme d'accueil* will be to adjust the structures of the Public Service and to make public servants more aware of the political and cultural situation found in minority groups.

### Social action program

As far as this program is concerned, I announced in the House last October that the funds available to the Official Language Minorities Program will be brought up from \$30 to \$75 million in the course of the next five years, an increase of \$45 million.

That program will be administered under criteria to be set up as far as possible in consultation with the representatives of the official language minority groups. These criteria could deal for instance with the concerns of minorities threatened by assimilation, the social and cultural situation of the minority groups, the previous assistance received from the various levels of government, the impact of the minority groups' activities or projects on the whole of the communities concerned, the contribution of the pro-

jects or activities to the attainment of the objectives and principles that have been established, and with other themes that could be proposed later by the groups or by the Department.

\* \* \* \*

...The Federal Government will use its political and administrative powers to improve the operations of its agencies both for the adoption of new measures designed to give higher quality services to minority groups and for a concerted effort that will lead the various levels of government to give an appropriate response, in consultation with the minorities, to the concerns voiced by the *francophone* minorities.

\* \* \* \*

### News briefs

A Canadian Government aircraft carrying Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Hugh Faulkner, narrowly escaped a mid-air collision near Anchorage International Airport on January 20. The pilot of the eight-passenger jet swerved off-course to avoid colliding with a larger aircraft that appeared out of thick cloud.

Canada and Romania have signed a bilateral fisheries treaty allowing Romania to fish within the Canadian 200-mile limit while recognizing Canada's interest in the management of fish stocks beyond 200 miles.

Harold Ballard, principal owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, has purchased the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the Canadian Football League. The undisclosed price is between the asking price of \$1.5 million and Mr. Ballard's offer of \$1.2 million.

Production of primary copper is expected to total about 737,000 tonnes this year, down 5.6 per cent from last year, Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Alastair Gillespie says.

The Italian gold medal for civil valour has been presented to Canadian Forces Europe (CFE). The award recognizes the Canadian military contribution to relief operations following the March 1976 earthquake in the Friuli region of north-east Italy. A gold medal was also presented posthumously to Captain Ronald McBride of Toronto, a Canadian Forces helicopter pilot killed during the operation.