

CANADA/EC HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATIONS

On 7 and 8 June a high level delegation from Ottawa attended the 22nd round of semi-annual consultations between Canada and the EC, in Brussels. The Canadian delegation was led by Mr. Daniel Molgat, Assistant Deputy Minister for European Affairs in the Department of External Affairs. Mr. Gianluigi Giola, Deputy Director-General for External Relations led the European Commission team.

The two delegations reviewed the international economic situation and a wide range of multilateral trade issues. They also exchanged information on recent policy developments. The Commission presented outlines on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, the EC commercial policy and the improvement of its internal market. The Canadian delegation provided recent information on banking legislation and the special import measures legislation in Canada. The Canadian side also underlined its present policy on seals and reiterated its long-standing objection to the EC embargo on the products of young harp seals, which ignores principles of resource management and constitutes a dangerous precedent in international trade policy.

The Commission expressed its concerns about the provisional extension of the Canadian footwear quota and announced its intention to seek GATT article 19 consultations. Canada noted that the recent recession had delayed the industry's efforts to reajust, and pointed out several positive measures which had accompanied the decision.

The Canadian delegation outlined its position on the EC GATT-bound duty-free newsprint quota. The Commission indicated that it would be proposing supplementary provisional quotas in order to provide duty-free cover to all EC newsprint requirements. Canada pointed out that Canadian procedures and European publishers need to operate within a secure and predictable market-access regime. A system of provisional quotas impairs their ability to make long term contracts.

In the interests of the survival of Atlantic salmon stocks, and the industry which depends upon it, the Canadian delegation asked the Community to reconsider its position on the size of the total allowable catch for West Greenland, and to agree to a substantial reduction.

The two delegations also addressed a number of other bilateral issues, including provincial liquor board practices in Canada, asbestos, the application of EC meat hygiene standards to third countries, EC export restitutions on beef, and the import of Canadian seed potatoes.

LE TRAVAIL PARTAGE PROMIS A UN BEL AVENIR

Juste avant Noël, à Thompson (Manitoba), plus de 2.000 employés d'Inco Metals Co. sur le point d'être mis à pied apprenaient qu'ils gardaient leur travail pour plusieurs mois encore grâce au Programme de travail partagé du ministère fédéral de l'Emploi et de l'Immigration.

Comme le sous-entend son nom, le Programme de travail partagé consiste à répartir le travail disponible entre les travailleurs. Ainsi, ces derniers conservent leur emploi et la plupart des avantages sociaux qui s'y rattachent, tandis que les em-