

Pulp and paper machinery to Poland

A major advance in trade relations between Canada and Poland was made on September 25 with the signing of a Protocol of Agreement under which Canada's Export Development Corporation will make available up to \$500 million in loans to assist Canadian exporters in the selling of Canadian capital goods, equipment and services to Poland.

Announcement of the signing was made by former Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Alastair Gillespie and Ryzart Strzelecki, Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Marine Economy, Warsaw. It provides for loans for transactions involving the purchase of high-technology capital equipment and related services from Canadian pulp and paper manufacturers and engineers.

The first loan agreement under the Protocol, also signed the same day, will involve an EDC loan of up to \$50 million to support the sale by H.A. Simons (International) Ltd, of Vancouver of the design engineering services for a pulp and paper complex for the Government of Poland.

The agreement was concluded during a visit of Polish foreign trade and bank officials to Ottawa.

EDC President John A. MacDonald stated that the agreements would be of tremendous importance to pulp and paper machinery and equipment manufacturers throughout Canada, particularly on the West Coast. "As long as they can compete on the basis of price, quality, and service, they can be assured of the EDC support necessary to enable them to match international competitions," he added.

Canada salutes U.S. bicentennial at All-Star Game

The Department of External Affairs recently announced that Canada had accepted an invitation to take part in the half-time show of the 1976 bicentennial Shrine football game in Palo Alto, California on January 3.

Canada as a close neighbour of the United States will present a bicentennial salute to the people of the U.S. at this traditional "All-Star" game held annually between the Eastern and Western champion college teams. The

contingent of 200 Canadians will be composed of members of the Royal Canadian Police Musical Ride, The Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry Band from Calgary, the City of Winnipeg Massed Pipes and Drums and pipers of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada from Vancouver, British Columbia, and of the Canadian Scottish Regiment, Victoria, B.C.

The profits from the game will be given to Shriners' hospitals for crippled children in both the U.S. and Canada.

Canada is participating in several events in celebration of the U.S. bicentennial during 1976.

Transplantation research

A group of scientists working on transplantation immunology at the University of Alberta has received renewed funding from the Medical Research Council of Canada.

They will receive some \$2.5 million over five years to continue the study of causes of rejection of tissue used in transplant operations.

The transplantation team was established at the University of Alberta five years ago with Medical Research Council funding of about \$1.5 million for the initial five-year contract that ended this year. During that time they generated over 100 papers and presentations.

The aim of the group, which is headed by Dr. J.B. Dossetor and Dr. Erwin Diener, co-directors, and Dr. Thomas Wegmann, is to combine clinical and theoretical research to provide insight into the processes that take place when the body rejects foreign tissue.

"The idea is to integrate the two — to build a bridge between the applied and basic work — to provide a better picture of what takes place," says Dr. Dossetor whose work is largely clinical.

Mixed results

Asked if he were pleased with progress so far, Dr. Dossetor confesses to ambivalent feelings.

"The subject hasn't developed exactly as was originally expected," he says. "Some areas of research have developed well, some not so well — the basic research has gone really well, though."

"The hope five years ago was that

there would, by this time, be a new approach to rejection in man using more specific methods of controlling man's immunity," he explains. "Whereas this has been fairly successful in animals, it has just now reached the point where it may begin to be applied to humans."

"However in other areas, such as tissue typing, there has been quite a lot of advance in ways which we had not anticipated," says the doctor. "One set of factors to do with the cell surface previously known to be important to the rejection or acceptance of transplanted cells has been found to be part of a more complex system — and this has implication for other aspects of general medicine where susceptibility to different diseases, such as multiple sclerosis, is genetically determined."

The team's work in this area has led to work with the Eskimos and the Hutterites — populations that have "pure" cells because they do not have outside genes entering their "gene pool". The Hutterites have been found to be especially valuable as they have kept genealogical records for over a century.

On the basis now solidly established, the group will exploit the new avenues it has opened up and will at the same time look for additional methods of attack in the problems of disease susceptibility and foreign-tissue rejection.

Canada Council program to help Canadian writers

The Canada Council has announced a new program to encourage Canadian publishers to organize promotion tours for their authors through such means as interviews, press conferences and other book-launching events.

The Council, which will pay travel expenses for the tours, will offer, in addition, a fee of \$125 per reading for authors who give public readings of their works during the tour. Other expenses will be borne by the publisher.

The new program is open to all publishing houses that meet the requirements of the publication-grants program. It does not affect the grants already available to art galleries, museums, libraries and post-secondary schools for public readings by Canadian writers of their published works.