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## Canada/U.S. currency exchange

The Ontario government recently opened fair currency exchange services at five Ontario Travel information centres along the Canada-U.S. border.

Currency exchange, which was tested in August and September 1978, is intended to accommodate American travellers vacationing in the province.

The five travel information centres involved are located in Niagara Falls, Windsor (both at the tunnel and the Ambassador Bridge leading from Detroit), Sault Ste. Marie and Hill Island (servicing the Thousand Islands Bridge).

The program will operate on a year-round basis at the travel centres, with the exception of the Ambassador Bridge and Hill Island facilities which are open on a seasonal basis only between May and October.

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## The world's first border airport

History was made as Manitoba Premier Sterling Lyon and Minnesota Governor Al Quie officially opened the only airstrip in the world running between two countries.

The idea originated seven years ago when the state government decided the airport runway at Pinecreek, Minnesota, had to be extended to 1,000 metres for safe night flying.

The only possible direction to lengthen the grass strip was north, across the border to a point about 10 kilometres south of Piney, Manitoba.

The local Piney district council finally purchased the land for the extension last summer with a \$4,000 provincial grant. Manitoba spent more than \$10,000 on the project and the United States is paying about \$22,000 for its share of the work.

The airport now is operated by a commission composed of three Manitobans and three Minnesotans.

The Pinecreek airstrip was built in 1953 to allow hunting and fishing parties flying to and from northern Manitoba to clear U.S. and Canadian customs conveniently.

The opening ceremonies for the new airport included a fly-past by an air squadron from the Minnesota National Guard and a demonstration of precision manoeuvres by the Dragonflies, a Canadian Forces helicopter team.

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## Canadian milk program studied

A Canadian government-supported skim milk powder aid program, operated by nine Canadian non-governmental organizations, is making a significant impact on malnutrition in Third World countries, but needs to be planned and "targetted" much more carefully in future, according to a study by a non-profit Canadian research organization.

The study, prepared by the North-South Institute, is entitled *Handle with Care* and is based on six months of research, field inspections in five countries (Bangladesh, Haiti, Honduras, India and St. Vincent, West Indies) and questionnaire responses from 11 other countries.

The evaluation was commissioned by the organizations supporting the aid program together with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The skim milk powder program, now costing \$2 million annually, represents only a small fraction of Canada's food aid expenditures.

Canadian agencies and their partner-groups overseas monitored the program unusually closely and very little of the Canadian milk seemed to be diverted to less needy groups, to be re-sold or wasted, says the study.

The report points out that like other food aid schemes, the program raises difficult questions about the relationship between humanitarian aid, surplus disposal, and promoting "self-reliant" development in poor countries.

The study also examines whether the program has contributed to the "bottle baby" problem of declining breast-feeding in the Third World. It has been suggested that milk powder aid programs can, at least indirectly, aggravate the widespread problems arising from commercial infant formulas in poor countries.

While warning of the potential dangers, the North-South Institute researchers say, "Small but growing evidence was encountered during this study of the problem of bottle feeding, but it did not seem to be evidently encouraged by the availability of NGO (non-governmental organizations) skim milk powder. In general, among rural and even urban populations affected by this program, breast-feeding appears still to be extremely well established, frequently up to the age of two years."

However, the Institute says, the program must guard against dependencies on

such imported foods by groups to whom it is not essential. The study suggests that the program should be carefully monitored to ensure that the milk continues to reach the highest priority groups, such as pre-school age children, pregnant and lactating women and those recuperating from illnesses.

In addition, the study proposes a number of recommendations designed to improve the aid program. They include:

- there should be special efforts by CIDA and non-governmental organizations to link local food development schemes to skim milk powder distribution;
- simple, but standardized, reporting systems should be used by all participants to help determine year-to-year allocations and monitor effectiveness on a continuing basis;
- the scheme would benefit from being held at about the present level with goals more closely defined and pursued;
- methods should be implemented through which damage and loss of goods due to poor packaging might be avoided;
- small additional grants to the participating non-governmental organizations would help defray shipping and handling costs within recipient countries;
- for a variety of reasons, other food products should not be included in this program until the experience with milk is more fully planned and tested.

Copies of *Handle With Care* may be ordered directly from the North-South Institute, 185 Rideau Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1N 5X8.

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## Athletes place third at Games

Canada placed third behind the United States and Cuba at the Pan-American Games held recently in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Canada sent a contingent of almost 450 athletes to the Games in which 33 nations participated. The Canadian team claimed a total of 137 medals consisting of 24 gold, 42 silver and 71 bronze. The U.S. team topped the medals standings with 264, followed by Cuba with 146. Canada's overall medal standing was up from the 1975 total of 94 (19-35-40) won at the Pan-American Games in Mexico City.

Guy Lorion of Longueuil, Quebec, won the first Canadian gold medal of the Games earning a total of 384 points out of 400 to take the air rifle event. The