

### **Royal Remarks in Ottawa**

Her Majesty the Queen, making a cross-country Canadian tour from September 24 through to October 7, was greeted by enthusiastic crowds despite the fact that her visit followed closely upon that of his Holiness Pope John Paul II (see this issue — VATICAN — Papal Visit). Unlike his Holiness, Queen Elizabeth issued statements that remained on a level to keep all political feathers unruffled. Her addresses to diverse groups of Canadians all stressed commonality and harmony, and steered clear of controversy. In Ottawa September 26, the Queen was introduced by remarks made by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Following an expression of the pride felt by Canadians in receiving Her Majesty, Mr. Mulroney cited the monarchy as an institution of continuity — one of strength, adaptability and relevance. The Commonwealth itself, continued the Prime Minister, might be used as a tool in the maintenance of international peace, through a strengthening of common values and traditions.

The Queen responded by acknowledging the great potential of the Canadian nation, but added that the potential could only be successfully realized through "stable institutions." In a period of rapid change, there must exist a reconciliation of such change with the "maintenance of good order." While Canada had seen fit to modify or modernize traditions as "conditions alter," she continued, there remained in Canada a unique system of federalism within Parliamentary Democracy — in the preservation of which lies "the best hope of human freedom." Canada has shown a readiness, concluded the Queen, to "initiate and innovate with imagination and boldness" (Government copies of speeches, September 26).

## **USSR**

### **Trade Imbalance**

Once again, criticism has come from Soviet representatives with regard to the trade imbalance existing between Canada and the USSR (see "International Canada" for December 1983 and January 1984 — USSR — Trade Imbalance). Making a statement at an agricultural gathering in late September, Igor Konovalov, agricultural trade commissioner to Canada, indicated that the USSR might consider a cut in the amount of Canadian grain imported by the Soviet Union, should Canada not reciprocate with an increase in the purchase of Soviet manufactured goods. He noted in his statement that in 1983 the USSR made purchases from Canada of more than fifty-three times that made by Canada from the Soviet Union. Echoing earlier words of corner interested Soviet officials, Mr. Konovalov stated that "Canada must show more understanding for the fact that trade is a two-way street." He added that the USSR might shift previous Canadian grain purchases to those countries more willing to purchase Soviet manufactured products (*Globe and Mail*, September 28).

### **Clark-Gromyko Meeting**

On September 25, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko held a short

session in New York to discuss Canada-Soviet relations. The atmosphere was later described by spokesmen as "friendly and relaxed," as the two counterparts analyzed briefly the state of the Canada-USSR relationship. Mr. Clark told reporters after the meeting that while he had raised the question of possible Soviet compensation for the Canadian victims killed in the Soviet downing of Korean Airlines flight 007 in 1983, he had received no official response. However, said Mr. Clark, because of the lack of time for "substantive discussion," this was no reason to believe that some eventual solution to the issue might not be achieved (*The Citizen*, September 26).

For his part, Mr. Gromyko indicated a desire for Canada-Soviet relations to continue under the new Mulroney government the "reasonably good" footing initiated by the Trudeau government. He stressed the need for a "strengthening" of the bilateral relationship, especially in the economic and scientific fields in which the greatest scope lies. Mr. Gromyko added that efforts should be made to make such contacts "more regular and substantive."

## **VATICAN**

### **Papal Representative**

As a "gesture to the Vatican" in advance of Pope John Paul II's visit to Canada, the Liberal federal cabinet reached a decision to make the papal representative, Archbishop Angelo Palmas, "dean" of the diplomatic corps in Canada, according to External Affairs spokesperson Dilys Buckley-Jones (*The Citizen*, August 8). Previously, the privileged status of dean of the corps had been held by the ambassador who had been in Ottawa for the longest period of time. The dean represented the collective diplomatic corps in its dealings with the Canadian government. While Archbishop Palmas, because of his seniority, was already dean of the corps, the new cabinet decision meant that his successor would automatically assume the position. Despite the fact that the decision broke with diplomatic tradition, the policy change received little opposition from the corps itself, politicians or non-Catholic church organizations. The granting of such senior status to the papal representative has been used as a courtesy gesture in the past in Latin American and many western European countries.

### **Visit of Pope John Paul II**

The official September visit of Pope John Paul II to Canada began and continued with a series of addresses given across the nation that zeroed in on Canadian domestic issues of a secular nature, primarily the economy, native rights' issues and aid to the Third World. However, the Pope endeavored to relate his statements on outstanding Canadian social problems to both the current international situation and the spiritual plane. From the beginning of the visit, the Pope acted as advocate of social change for the enrichment of human life within Canada.

Speaking before a fishing community in Flatrock, Newfoundland, September 12, the Pope outlined the dangers inherent in an economic structure that permitted pro-