

Canadian appointed to World Communication Commission

The appointment of Betty Zimmerman, Director of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation International Relations, to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems was announced recently by UNESCO Director-General Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow.



Betty Zimmerman

Van's Studio Ltd.

Ms. Zimmerman, former radio and TV producer, joins 15 commissioners of international repute drawn from academic and cultural circles, government and the communications media, and is the only woman appointee.

The International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems was established by the UNESCO General Conference at its nineteenth session in Nairobi in 1976 to examine "the totality of communication problems in modern society". Headed by Sean MacBride, the Commission has been given the further mandate "to study the current situation in the fields of communication and information, and to identify problems which call for new action at the national level and a concerted, global approach on the international level".

An interim report of what has become known internationally as the MacBride Commission will be made to the General Conference at its twentieth session in the autumn and the final report will be published in mid-1979.

Centre created to study inflation

Dr. Sylvia Ostry, Chairman of the Economic Council of Canada, has announced the creation of the Centre for the Study of Inflation and Productivity (CSIP) to bring about "the deceleration of the underlying rate of inflation". Dr. Ostry added that "we intend as forcefully and clearly and urgently as we can to point up the serious implications for the Canadian economy and Canadian society of failure to achieve these goals".

CSIP, which is being established in response to a request raised by the provincial premiers during the February First Ministers' Conference, will attempt to promote a better understanding of major issues concerning economic productivity and the nature and sources of inflation.

Dr. Ostry explained why the Economic Council had agreed to undertake this additional responsibility, as a special "reference" under Section 10 of the Economic Council of Canada Act. "Canada, like every industrial country," she said, "continues to face the difficult and complex tasks of increasing employment and production while decelerating inflation and maintaining a viable international position."

CSIP will have a staff of about 75 people, and three divisions: Macroeconomic Analysis, Sectoral and Structural Analysis, Communications.

The Macroeconomic Analysis Division will analyse short-term domestic and international developments from the perspective of the performance of the whole economy. It will track the movements of price and cost indexes and explain the implications of various events for the objectives of stability and growth.

The Sectoral and Structural Analysis Division will look at economic issues which cut across sectors, such as energy pricing or various forms of indexation, and at situations peculiar to a sector or industry, such as productivity and costs in the service sector.

The Communications Division will produce a quarterly report which will analyse and summarize recent and anticipated developments and will publish research studies on a regular basis.

After the Centre has examined a particular development in as much depth as permitted by available public information, the members of the Economic Council will be called upon to assess the situation and, if necessary, suggest that the Government establish an inquiry.

New shrimp fishery

A total of 11 licences will be available for Newfoundland, Maritime and Quebec fishermen wishing to participate in a new shrimp fishery off Labrador and north-eastern Newfoundland this year, announced Fisheries Minister Roméo LeBlanc, recently.

Intensive scientific studies conducted by the federal Fisheries Department, and exploratory fishing in the area during 1977, led to the decision to permit harvesting of the shrimp stocks in the Hope-dale, Cartwright and Hawke Channels, and in the 3K (off northern Newfoundland) and 2G (off northern Labrador) areas for the first time this year.

"The special recognition of the interests of fishermen in a certain area — in this case, Labrador fishermen — is not an unprecedented approach," said Mr. LeBlanc. "The situation is similar in many ways to the extremely successful Bay of Fundy herring fishery which is primarily reserved for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick fishermen. The inshore

fishery in Labrador had been virtually wiped out by foreign offshore fishing in the past, and these Labrador fishermen have had extremely limited opportunities to obtain a reasonable income from other fishery resources. The new shrimp fishery at their doorstep will offer them, as well as the others involved, the possibility of developing an economically viable industry with good potential," said Mr. LeBlanc.

A total allowable catch of 7,100 metric tons has been set for the new fishery for 1978. As the fishery develops, and all licensed vessels participate, the Federal Government will consider applying individual vessel quotas.

Fishermen harvesting the shrimp will be free to land at the nearest processing plant, or may process and freeze shrimp on board their vessels for landing in Canada.

"Given the prevailing price of shrimp in any of its product forms on the current world market," said Mr. LeBlanc, "substantial benefits for all those involved in this new fishery are almost a certainty."