

## Canada joins cancer agency

Canada has been elected a member and participating state by the Governing Council of the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France, Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has announced.

Beginning this month, Canada will contribute \$700,000 annually from funds allocated to the department under a joint program with the Department of Environment to gain a better understanding of the hazards of toxic chemicals.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer is associated with the World Health Organization but has its own governing body which elects members on the basis that the country concerned is able to contribute effectively to the scientific and technical work of the agency.

The main thrust of the agency is in the field of the epidemiology of cancer around the world and in the scientific evaluation of carcinogenic hazards of chemicals. These activities are expected to contribute to a better understanding of the causes of various cancers and will enable preventive measures to be taken.

## Support for peace zone

Canada "intends to work in a constructive and positive manner towards the realization of the concept of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace", Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament Arthur Menzies told a recent United Nations committee in New York.

Mr. Menzies told the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace that Canada supports a UN draft resolution designating the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

Mr. Menzies said that efforts to establish the area must be based on certain fundamental principles. Canada, he said, finds the following principles particularly important:

- the concept should be based on proposals which emanate from and are agreed to by countries in the area concerned;
- the concept should apply to a well-defined and agreed to geographic area;
- the concept should conform with the universally recognized right of all nations to the use of the high seas and to overflight; and

— it should not infringe on the rights of all states as recognized by the UN Charter to individual or collective defence.

## Principles need study

"These principles, whether taken singly or in combination must undergo rigorous analysis of a legal and technical nature. This is what the process of harmonization is all about. It is the view of my delegation that the premature convening of a high level international conference before this process is completed could have serious adverse consequences for the concept itself. Nor do we believe that an international conference should be convened merely to continue the process of harmonization in order to arrive at some tangible decisions regarding implementation based on solid groundwork to arrive at commonly accepted principles," said Mr. Menzies.

The Canadian ambassador said that the draft resolution should not form the "exclusive basis" for the ad hoc committee looking at the idea of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. "Indeed any decision pertaining to the elements comprising the framework for the concept should be made in light of accompanying measures designed to improve trust and confidence in the regions," said Mr. Menzies. The creation of a mechanism for regional co-operation including assurances is an important part of the total process of harmonization, Mr. Menzies told the committee.

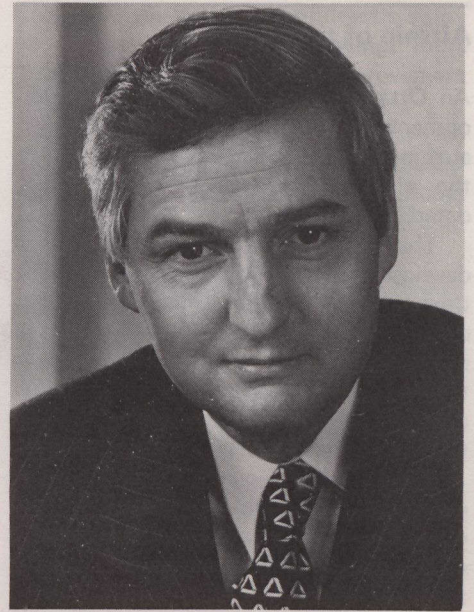
## Facelift for textile industry

The federal government has named industrialist Paul Desmarais to head a new agency designed to encourage modernization of the textile and clothing industry.

The agency — the Canadian Industrial Renewal Board — was proposed by the government in June as part of its textile policy. Mr. Desmarais, who is president of Power Corporation of Montreal, has been appointed chairman of the agency, which will have its headquarters in Montreal.

The board will take \$250 million from existing government programs over the next five years to help the textile and clothing industries adjust to technological change and competition from developing countries.

The CIRB will allocate funds to communities, firms and workers to help them readjust to changing conditions including freer world trade.



Paul Desmarais, the chairman of the new Canadian Industrial Renewal Board.

Textile and clothing firms will be eligible for moderate interest loans of up to \$1.5 million for mergers and acquisitions, contributions of up to 50 per cent in designated communities for retooling and expansion provided they spend more than \$100,000, and 75 per cent contributions for consultants' fees for developing expansion proposals. To establish other industries in textile communities the board will provide a maximum of 50 per cent of the capital costs needed.

The clothing and textile industries employ some 200,000 workers and produced more than \$8 billion in goods in 1980. Some 42 per cent of the firms in the industries are in Quebec; 41 per cent are located in Ontario.

## Contribution to UNHCR

Canada will contribute \$4.6 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1982.

In setting the level of its 1982 core contribution, Canada has taken into account the financial needs of the UNHCR in meeting its humanitarian commitments. The Canadian government also supported the administrative and budgetary measures taken by the High Commissioner which are expected to permit the UNHCR to respond positively to future challenges.

The Canadian government has also emphasized that it will continue to respond positively to particular refugee requirements that may arise during the upcoming year.