

Multilateral Relations

European Parliament recommends seal product ban

The European Parliament voted on March 11 to recommend a law banning the import of Canadian seal products into the 10 European Common Market countries. Federal Revenue Minister William Rompkey and Newfoundland Fisheries Minister James Morgan had returned to Canada March 10 after an unsuccessful attempt to influence Euro-MPs to reject the resolution.

The European Parliament is a consultative and deliberative body with little legislative power over the 10 members of the EEC. The recommendation must now be considered by the 14-member European Commission. If it passes, the recommendation will go for further consideration to the Council of Ministers of the EEC.

If the ban is invoked legally it could provoke Canadian reconsideration of a recently signed fishing treaty with the EEC. *The Ottawa Citizen* (March 12) reported that Canadian politicians have warned the European parliamentarians that if the ban goes through, "it could push the Canadian federal government to revoke the Canada-EEC treaty, or at least limit fishing rights of some EEC countries in Canadian waters."

NATO NPG Meeting

The Hon. Gilles Lamontagne *Minister of National Defence* attended the 31st meeting of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group (NPG) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on March 23 and 24. Responsible for formulating nuclear policy proposals within the Alliance, the NPG discussed the modernization of NATO's long-range theatre nuclear forces, theatre nuclear arms control and employment policies. Chief of Defence Staff General Ramsey Withers and J.G.H. Halstead, Permanent Representative of Canada to the North Atlantic Council, also attended.

At the meeting, NATO defence ministers denounced Soviet Premier Breznev's proposed moratorium on medium-range nuclear arms almost unanimously, the U.S. delegation obtaining their allies' complete cooperation and agreement in the deployment of 572 American missiles to be based in Europe by 1983 should the Soviet-American negotiations at Geneva not reach a satisfactory conclusion. However, Mr. Joseph Luns, Secretary General of NATO, indicated that President Reagan's *Zero Option* proposal (whereby NATO would cancel deployment of new missiles, the USSR dismantling their SS-20, SS-4 and SS-5 missiles) was still the most satisfactory.

The NPG gathering also permitted the European defence ministers to insist upon an early opening of the Soviet-American strategic arms reduction negotiations (START). Mr. Weinberger, U.S. Secretary of Defence, said that these negotiations could only begin when international conditions permit. Both Mr. Weinberger and Mr. Luns insisted on the necessity of better public information on defence

problems, noting the growing strength of international pacifist movements. (*Le Devoir* March 25)

Speech by the Minister for External Relations

On March 23, the Hon. Pierre De Bané *Minister for External Relations* addressed the Moncton, New Brunswick, branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, on the subject of "Canada and La Francophonie".

Mr. De Bané emphasized the solidarity of francophone regions both within and outside Canada, noting the "sharing and mutual assistance brought about through co-operation". The development of international francophone organizations, many initiated through non-governmental sources, reflect a growing concern to establish stronger ties with French-speaking groups throughout the world. The government has reciprocated with a willingness to increase its involvement in foreign aid projects to developing francophone nations and has supported the growth of intergovernmental agencies of La Francophonie.

Mention was made of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, created in 1970 in Niger, an agency in which Canada actively participates. Dedicated to human resource development, both cultural and technological, the Agency seeks to stimulate co-operative exchanges and communication. Its programmes focus on the promotion of national languages and cultures, the development of modern educational techniques, scientific and technical co-operation contributing to the pooling of research adapted to the needs and resources of each country, and mobilization of populations for their economic and social development. Two Canadian provincial governments, Quebec and New Brunswick, have joined the federal government as participatory members in the Agency, having a voice in the formulation of programmes and activities. A system of consultation and transmission of information between the three maintains a unity of Canadian action.

Other intergovernmental organizations and private associations also contribute significantly to the international co-operation of La Francophonie on a multilateral level. These include the Association of Partly or Wholly French-speaking Universities (AUPELF), the International Association of French-speaking Parliamentarians (AIPLF), the International Union of French-speaking Journalists (UC-JLF), and the International Fund for University Cooperation (FICU).

Bilaterally, Canada has established an intensive network of diplomatic representation with developing francophone countries, especially in Africa. Mr. De Bané outlined the prime objectives of Canada's foreign policy in this area: providing development assistance to the least advantaged nations, making manifest on the world scene the Canadian identity through ties with both francophone and Commonwealth countries, forming mutually beneficial