

Montreal named official gateway to Winter Olympics

Montreal has been officially designated as the Canadian gateway to the 1980 Olympic Winter Games to be held in Lake Placid, New York, February 13-24.

The announcement was made in Montreal recently by Rev. J. Bernard Fell, president of the Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee (LPOOC), and Roger Hamel, president of the Quebec Chamber of Commerce.

Of the more than 600,000 visitors expected to attend the games over the 12-day period, more than 180,000 are expected to arrive *via* Montreal and are likely to use the Canadian city as a "home base", commuting daily by bus to the Lake Placid Olympic site, which is located about two hours from Montreal.

Most of the visitors and many of the athletes, especially from European and Scandinavian countries, are expected to arrive *via* Montreal and some training will probably take place in Montreal in preparation for the Games.

"The designation of Montreal as the official Canadian gateway to the Olympic Winter Games is a significant event for both the LPOOC and our Canadian neighbours," said Rev. Fell. "It gives the organizing committee a great sense of satisfaction to know that the greater Montreal region has been given this designation because it helps us to handle the complex logistical problems which are associated with the arrival of athletes and officials for the Games," he said.

"By having the Olympic flag flying in the Montreal region as part of the team for the winter games, we will be able to utilize their great experience in staging this premiere event," concluded Rev. Fell.

Special customs arrangements are being made so that visitors to Montreal who are headed for the Olympic Games can clear U.S. Customs in Montreal before they board the buses for Lake Placid each day, and clear Canadian Customs when they arrive back in Montreal at the end of the day, explained Mr. Hamel.

Organizers of the Quebec Winter Carnival have also agreed to move the carnival ahead one week (it will be held January 31 to February 10), to free a large number of buses for transportation of those travelling between Montreal and Lake Placid.

(*Canada Tourism*, July-August, 1979)

Trade minister in South America

Minister of State for International Trade Michael Wilson recently visited the four South American states of Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Colombia. He represented Canada at the inaugurations of the new presidents of Bolivia and Ecuador, which took place August 6 and 10.

In addition to representing Canada at the inauguration ceremonies, Mr. Wilson met with economic ministers in the four countries and with leading members of the business community. The minister's visit was to support the initiative of Canadian companies in the area, to seek out possible trade and investment opportunities matching Latin American economic development requirements with Canadian manufacturing and engineering capabilities, and to reaffirm the Government's intention to develop Canada's economic ties with Latin America.

Trade with the four countries is an important part of Canada's commercial relations with Latin America. Total Canadian exports to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in 1978, which were close to \$200 million, included wheat, newsprint, woodpulp, aluminum, asbestos, automotive parts and other products. The four countries have major potential for Canadian exporters of goods and Canadian consulting and engineering services. Canadian firms, at present, are pursuing hydroelectric, mining and transportation contracts.

U.S. to study economic ties with Canada and Mexico

The United States says it will study the possibility of closer economic ties with Canada and Mexico, possibly by trying to negotiate special trade agreements.

Officials said the United States' main interest was to gain greater access to Canadian natural gas and Mexican oil supplies. In return, U.S. markets might be opened to more foreign exported goods.

Paul Orefice, president of Dow Chemical Co., said the time had come to form an economic union in North America that stretched "from the frozen tundras to near the tropics". The United States could trade its technological expertise to Canada and Mexico for easier access to their energy sources, he suggested.

EDC and Bank of China sign trade agreement in Peking

Canada and China have signed an agreement in principle between the Export Development Corporation (EDC) and the Bank of China, for a \$2-billion credit to cover purchases by China of capital goods and services from Canada.

The agreement was the culmination of negotiations between Cui Yenxur (Tsui Yen-hsu), Managing Director of the Bank of China, and EDC Chairman John A. MacDonald.

Mr. MacDonald said the Bank of China arranged calls on the Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade, Li Qiang (Li Chiang) and the Vice-Premier and Minister in charge of the State Planning Commission, Yu Qiuli (Yu Chiu-li). He was accompanied by the Canadian Ambassador to China, Arthur Menzies, and Wang Tung, the Chinese Ambassador to Canada, who was present in Peking at the time.

Both Vice-Premier Yu and Minister Li expressed strong support for the development of trade between China and Canada.

Canadian companies undertake feasibility study

A Canadian joint venture made up of The SNC Group, Acres International Limited and Tecsalt International Limited recently signed a contract with Instituto Costarricense de Electricidad (ICE) for a feasibility study and final design of the dam and diversion works for Costa Rica's Boruca Hydroelectric Project.

At 260 metres, Boruca Dam would be the highest rockfill dam in the world. It would contain 43 million cubic metres of fill and create a lake with a surface area of 220 square kilometres. The water power harnessed would generate some 760 megawatts.

A feature of the assignment is on-the-job training and the transfer of technology. Four ICE engineers will join the team in Canada for experience in North American project management techniques. ICE staff and the Canadian team will work together on continuing investigations of the remote site near the Panama Border. The Canadian joint venture will also work with the Costa Rican engineering firm, DYPSA. Phase 1 of the project, the part covered by the current contract, is expected to last two years.