

terpretation is the correct one and will be borne out by events.

PM CONFIDENT OF BRIGHTER FUTURE

If I may turn for a moment to the specific question of reforms in the monetary and trading practices of the world, the President and I agreed that no benefit would be gained by any short-sighted attempt on the part of any single country – the United States included – to gain immediate advantage. If the world trading nations and the international monetary community are unable to support with confidence whatever agreements are reached, then no progress will have been made. The same inherent instability and uncertainty which precipitated the August crisis will return, but with a viciousness not so far present because governments and the private sector will have lost confidence in their ability to come to grips with problems of this importance and this magnitude.

In short, Mr. Speaker, while the state of negotiations on specific points does not permit me to reveal to the House the precise state of play on any of the items which are understandably of interest to all Honourable Members, I am able to say that I have not the slightest doubt that those negotiations will be culminated soon, that the economic issues outstanding between Canada and the United States will be resolved, and that Canada will emerge in a healthier state. Much of the credit for progress in the process is due to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp), to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson), and to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) for the skilful, tough and professional manner in which they have led the Canadian team of negotiators.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

I have emphasized in these remarks those parts of my discussion with the President which were directed to economic issues and to Canadian-American relations. I hasten to add, however, that we spent a good deal of time on broader international matters – on the tragedy which is now unfolding on the Indian sub-continent, on the steps which are being pursued in the United Nations to arrest the hostilities and create a measure of confidence that the grievances in that area can be redressed, and on East-West relations generally. In keeping with the President's desire to inform the major allies of the United States about his pending visits to the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union, we talked of the initiatives taken by both Canada and the United States to lessen tension and contribute positively to an orderly international climate.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform Honourable Members that the President told me with what pleasure he and Mrs. Nixon were looking forward to their visit to Canada this spring. I assured him

that the warmth of the reception which I knew awaited them would be a clear indication of the friendship between the peoples of our two countries.

CN'S INTERNATIONAL ARM

Canadian National has incorporated its international division as a separate subsidiary, under the name of CANAC Consultants Limited, N.J. MacMillan, chairman and president of CN, announced recently.

Mr. MacMillan said that the recent signing of an agreement with Air Canada would enable the new firm to offer consulting services in the technology of both air and rail transportation and related areas.

Maurice Archer, senior vice-president of CN, has been elected chairman of the board of directors of CANAC Consultants Limited; Alton V. Johnston, former general manager of CN's International Consulting Division, has been appointed president of the new firm. A.E. Ades, of Air Canada, J.L. Cann and V.R. Cox, of Canadian National, are CANAC's vice-presidents.

CANAC's head office is located in Montreal, where both Air Canada and Canadian National have their headquarters.

"Formation of the new subsidiary company will enable the firm to offer a combined variety of consulting services to foreign countries, to private firms and to other consulting companies," said Mr. MacMillan.

Canadian National's ICD was set up in June 1968 to make technical transportation aid and advice available to developing countries on an organized, contractual basis. CN had previously been providing such aid and expertise to an increasing degree but on a more or less *ad hoc* basis, responding mainly to requests from the Federal Government, and also assisting an increasing number of independent Canadian consulting firms in overseas projects involving transportation.

The new company will continue the type of assignments previously carried out or currently under way by Air Canada and Canadian National's ICD.

"Since its inception, the international consulting division has handled 35 foreign assignments, 26 of which involved personnel working outside Canada. Apart from providing valuable aid to developing countries, the activities of the ICD have enhanced the prestige of CN – and of Canada – at home and abroad and have given CN managerial and technical experts opportunities to gain valuable experience and develop professional skills which can be applied elsewhere," said Mr. MacMillan.

Air Canada is currently involved in an assistance project in East Africa, while Canadian National's main technical assistance project involves the management and improvement of the existing rail network in Zambia over a five-year period.