

Canada Weekly

Volume 4, No. 29

July 21, 1976



Ottawa, Canada.

- Canada and the European Communities sign unprecedented agreement, 1
- Past Olympic standings, 3
- Canada's largest fisheries-patrol ship launched, 3
- Preparations for 200-mile fishing zone, 3
- A famous seedling, 4
- Grant for religious studies, 4
- Canada/U.S. development of space shuttle system, 5
- Ontario energy to New York and Michigan, 5
- Swirling air generator will save turbine fuel, 5
- Sarnia-Montreal pipeline open, 6
- Banking by television, 6
- News briefs, 6

Canada and the European Communities sign unprecedented agreement

"It is my personal conviction that the signature of this agreement will prove to be a landmark in the development of Canada's relations with the European Communities and its member states," declared the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, after signing the Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation between Canada and the European Communities in Ottawa, July 6. "For Canadians and for Europeans as well," he said, "it represents hard evidence of our common desire and determination to bring about our objective of closer and more mutually rewarding economic relations."

Signing for the European Communities were Max Van der Stoel, President of the Council of Ministers of the European Communities, who is Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, and Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities. Present were foreign dignitaries, Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Alastair Gillespie, officials and members of the news media.

The agreement, which provides a framework for Canada/EC economic co-operation, should lead to increased trade and investment opportunities between the two signatories. In particular, it should facilitate the expansion of industrial co-operation between Canada and Europe.

"Today, trade is only one element in a complex network of economic interaction that embraces investment, technology, licensing, joint ventures, and co-operation in third markets," said Mr. MacEachen. "What we shall be doing...is identifying individual sectors that look to be most promising in terms of industrial co-operation...a continuing process which will have among its objectives the further development of Canadian and European industry, the encouragement of technological and scientific progress and the opening up of new sources of supply and new markets...."

At a press conference following the signing ceremony, Mr. MacEachen stated that Canada had achieved one of the main goals of its foreign policy — diversified economic relations.

Mr. Van der Stoel called the pact a "novel instrument" of special importance for both sides, "a new step to establish the traditional links between Canada and Europe".

Describing the agreement as "the first of its kind anywhere", Sir Christopher Soames stated that it set the scene for Canadian and European businessmen to "go to it with a will". The agreement, he said, was "historic — a real milestone in our common development".

Main objectives

The principal aims of economic co-operation stated in the new agreement are defined as follows in a joint *communiqué* issued July 6:

"The development of Canadian and European industries; the encouragement of technological and scientific progress; the opening up of new

The European Community covers an area almost one-sixth the size of Canada. Within it live 230 million more people than live in Canada. The combined gross domestic product (GDP) of community members is about nine times that of Canada. The Community is the world's largest producer of cars and a leading producer of farm goods. It is the world's largest trader and the major buyer of imports from developing countries. It is one of the world's most generous donors of foreign aid.

More than 100 countries have accredited diplomatic representatives to the Community. It has negotiated trade or association agreements with more than 70 countries in Europe and elsewhere.

While the Community is not a "super-power", its economic strength gives it a voice in world affairs.

