

Canada urges reconsideration

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sending a declaration on hijacking at the Bonn summit in July clearly underlined Canada's commitment to take action to deal with this problem. The declaration commits the seven governments to suspend air links with countries which do not extradite or prosecute hijackers who come within their jurisdictions.

Participants at the Bonn meeting urged other governments to associate themselves with this commitment. Many governments have indicated that they are prepared to do so. We urge all other members of the international community to follow this course as well.

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Peace-keeping

Mr. President, earlier this year I had occasion to assess the situation in Cyprus at first hand. My visit confirmed my view that the parties to the conflict ought to be able to settle their differences by negotiation.

Canada has a direct interest in a solution of the Cyprus problem. Canadian contingents have been in Cyprus, as part of the UN force, for 14 years. Some of our soldiers are now doing their fourth tour of duty on the island. Many Canadians are beginning to feel that the continued presence of the force, instead of paving the way for a solution, may be a factor in impeding it.

The history of Cyprus, as an independent and sovereign member of the international community has been troubled. I believe that no useful purpose would be served in drawing up a ledger of responsibility for events that now lie in the past. What the international community has a right to expect of the people of Cyprus is that they use the resourcefulness and resilience they share with their Mediterranean

neighbourhoods, and such goodwill as still obtains, to draw up a new blueprint for their national existence in which all the parties will see their interests tolerably guaranteed. Given the legacy of the past, this will not be an easy enterprise. Nor will it, in my judgment, be achievable at all unless the process of negotiation between the two communities is made continuous. Otherwise, the momentum that has at one point or another been built up will inevitably be dissipated. The good offices of the Secretary-General are available to the parties. I would urge them to take full and prompt advantage of them.

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Law of the sea

Over the past year the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea has made important progress towards adoption of a comprehensive oceans treaty. I am particularly encouraged by the improvements in the informal Composite Negotiating Text on the prevention and control of vessel source pollution. The new text does not yet fully meet my Government's objectives in this field. Nevertheless, it reflects an increasing awareness by the international community of the need for a more balanced sharing of coastal and flag state rights and duties. The tragic and devastating oil spill off the French coast earlier this year gra-

phically demonstrated the obsolescence of the traditional rule of flag state sovereignty.

Most of the major elements of a global oceans treaty are now virtually agreed. What remain are the most difficult "hard-core" issues relating primarily to an international system for deep seabed mining, and the translation of the common heritage concept into an equitable system for extracting the minerals of the deep ocean bed. Our goal is unprecedented in international institutions — the establishment of an international organization with both regulatory responsibilities and a role in the actual exploitation of natural resources. The implications for the new economic order are profound and far-reaching. Thus no matter how exacting or frustrating the negotiations may still be, we cannot afford to let the Conference fail, particularly now that it has accomplished so much and home port is within sight.

Canada agrees however that the Conference must be brought to a conclusion as soon as possible. While an arbitrary deadline could impede, rather than expedite, the work of the Conference, we believe that the negotiations should end during the course of 1979. This would lead, we hope, to the adoption of a draft treaty in the early part of 1980. Canada will give its full support to the attainment of this objective....

News briefs

The Conservative Party of Nova Scotia, led by John Buchanan, defeated Liberal Premier Gerald Regan's eight-year-old government on September 19. The new premier campaigned for a subsidy on power rates until coal-powered generating plants become operational in the 1980s, greater support for small business, restraint in government spending, and a reduction in the 11 percent unemployment rate in the province.

The Federal Government and Canadian National Railways will share equally the \$7.3-million cost of repairing 1,000 rail cars for grain transportation. The cars, 30 to 40 years old, were to be scrapped.

Canadian wholesale trade totalled \$5.05 billion in July, up 12.9 per cent from trade in July 1977. Wholesale inventories were valued at \$8.25 billion, up 9.7 per cent from figures of a year earlier.

The National Research Council's National Aeronautical Establishment has developed an extremely sensitive method for analyzing air exhausted from an aircraft cabin and for detecting trace quantities (less than one part in a trillion) of vapours characteristic of explosives. The technique is based on gas chromatography (which separates constituents of the air by physical properties) and mass spectrometry (which identifies constituents by molecular weight).

Corrigendum

Please substitute "100,000" for "10,000", in third line of article on Page 5 — "Netherlands tourists like Canada", *Canada Weekly*, Vol. 6, No. 39, dated September 27, 1978.

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