

preoccupation was not only fruitless but was counterproductive" (*Hansard*, January 20). (See Multilateral, Central America, in this issue.)

Norway

External Affairs Minister Joe Clark participated in a Norway-Canada conference on Circumpolar Issues in Tromsø, Norway, from December 6 to 9, in conjunction with an official visit to Norway from December 7 to 9.

The conference discussed problems Canada and Norway share owing to their strategic and geographical locations, history and the environment. During the official visit, Mr. Clark had discussions with Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, as well as the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Norwegian parliament (*External Affairs Communiqué*, December 3).

Philippines

Filipino communities across Canada were uniting in an effort to raise money for families of the victims of the December 20 disaster in the Philippines. The United Council of Filipino Associations of Canadians asked the International Red Cross to distribute money it hoped to raise for the families of victims. Filipino Canadians hoped to collect \$10,000 to 15,000 for the relief fund (*Globe & Mail*, December 23).

South Africa

There was another step towards Canadian withdrawal of investments from South Africa. The University of Toronto's governing council voted 30:12 in favor of immediately selling \$1.26 million in shares in companies doing business in South Africa (*Toronto Sun*, January 22).

Turks and Caicos

Canada should exercise great caution in considering any suggestion for closer political or economic ties with the Caribbean's Turks and Caicos islands, the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee reported. "The earliest appropriate time for Canada to consider this subject would be after the 1988 elections on the Islands and then only if and when the new Turks and Caicos government raised the subject with Canada," it said in reaching the same conclusion as a committee of Conservative MPs in September (*The Gazette*, December 3).

USSR

Human Rights

Montreal human rights lawyer Irwin Cotler found himself in the middle of a demonstration in Moscow on behalf of Jewish refuseniks on January 28. Mr. Cotler was the only

Canadian in a delegation of nineteen from the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights who were spending a week in Moscow talking to Soviet officials and giving informal seminars to refuseniks interested in legal aspects of their problem (*The Gazette*, January 29). According to the *Toronto Star* of January 28, Mr. Cotler planned to ask lawyers across Canada to sponsor the efforts of individuals and families who have been prevented from emigrating from the Soviet Union.

Immigration

The Emigration Department in Lithuania accused Canadian authorities of denying a visa to a Soviet citizen on the grounds that he was a cripple. A Tass News Agency report from Vilnius said that the Soviets had given permission to the family of Viktor Rudkevich to immigrate to Canada but Canadian immigration officials told them that one member had to stay behind because of his physical impairment. A Canadian embassy official said that while everything about the case could not be discussed, the problem was that the handicapped person did not have the Canadian sponsorship required for immigration (*Globe & Mail*, December 5).

Polar Expedition

Canada and Soviet organizers of a joint ski expedition across the Arctic in March were looking for another Canadian team member for their 100-day, 1,730-kilometer journey. Out of 300 Canadian applicants, six were selected for training in June. But four of the six dropped out after two weeks of training around Frobisher Bay on Baffin Island. "When they met those particular conditions they decided they haven't got enough motivation to go through with it," Soviet mathematician Dmitry Shparo said. He hoped the trip would help the two countries to learn more about each other and provide research on the Arctic Ocean and the effects of the harsh climate on the team members (*The Gazette*, December 22). (See also Disarmament under Policy in this issue).

Zimbabwe

Concern was expressed by Dave Nickerson (P.C., Western Arctic) about Zimbabwe's lengthy detention of Dick Laban, a Canadian citizen, without filing a formal charge against him. The Minister for External Relations assured the House that an officer from the Canadian High Commission had maintained regular contact with Mr. Laban who has been accused of having provided information to South Africa's intelligence service in 1984. A hearing had been scheduled in Harare for December 8 (*Hansard*, December 16).