

## Agreement on trade talks

Foreign and finance ministers at the annual meeting of the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris agreed on preparations for a new round of negotiations to cut trade barriers.

The two day meeting, April 11-12, was co-chaired by Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark and Finance Minister Michael Wilson, and was attended by the ministers of the 24 major industrial democracies.

The agreement on trade was in part a compromise solution in that it stated the new "round of negotiations should begin as soon as possible". Canada, the US and Japan were among those nations that had urged setting a firm date for the talks.

Canada's external affairs minister said he "wasn't disappointed at all" with the failure to include a stronger reference to starting the talks next year. "We would have preferred an agreement on a date," he said, but he added that the ministers agreed to call for a meeting of senior officials this summer to prepare an agenda for the next round of talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The foreign and finance ministers also pledged to resist domestic protectionist pressures and prepare submissions by mid-October on how to eliminate existing trade restraints.

The communique pressed Japan to open its borders to imports and foreign investment along with further deregulation of its domestic financial markets. Similarly, it said the huge US deficit, high interest rates and the strong US dollar are hindering international economic recovery.

## Ontario sales rise

Ontario exports for 1984 increased by a record 32 per cent over 1983 exports with sales totalling \$55.2 billion.

Sales to the US were up 34 per cent to \$49.5 billion. Other major markets were: the United Kingdom up 24.9 per cent to \$871 million; Japan up 68 per cent to \$427 million; West Germany up 18.2 per cent to \$376 million; and the Netherlands up 15.4 per cent to \$322 million.

Motor vehicles and automotive parts were Ontario's largest exports, accounting for \$18 billion and \$10 billion respectively. Other major exports included non-ferrous metals, forest products, industrial machinery, steel and steel products, petroleum products and electricity, office machinery, telecommunications equipment, and aircraft and parts.

## Adoption of Canadian 'right to learn' declaration

A declaration recognizing a person's 'right to learn', that was prepared by the International Council on Adult Education in Toronto, Ontario, was unanimously adopted at the conclusion of the fourth International Conference on Adult Education on March 29 at UNESCO's Paris headquarters.

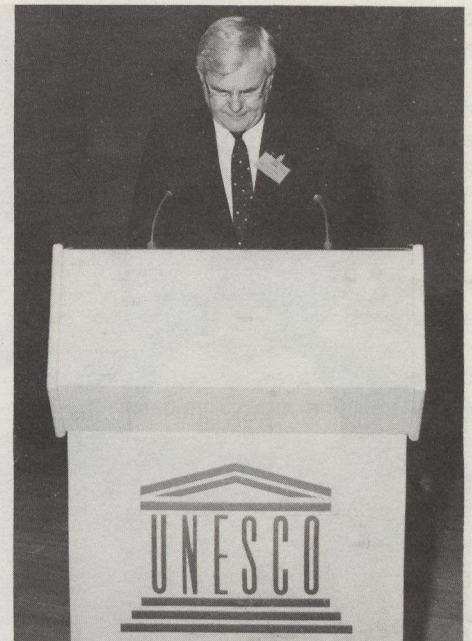
More than 800 participants representing the 122 member states and 50 non-governmental organizations attended the ten-day conference in late March.

Introducing the declaration to the conference, Alberta Assistant Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower Desmond E. Berghofer drew attention to the stakes for the world community in making the right to learn a reality.

The declaration states that "there can be no human development without the right to learn". It stresses that the right to learn is not only an instrument of economic development but must be recognized as one of the fundamental human rights for "the act of learning lying...at the heart of all educational activity, changes human beings from objects at the mercy of events to subjects who create their own history". The declaration also states that "recognition of the right to learn is now more than ever a major challenge to humanity".

Secretary of State of Canada Walter F. McLean, the head of the Canadian delegation, told the conference that "effective exercise by our citizens to the right to learn is essential for both economic and democratic reasons".

Participants at the conference stressed the need to promote the full and equal access of women to education, employment and participation in social life. They also



Secretary of State for Canada Walter McLean said the 'right to learn' is important for economic and democratic reasons.

pointed out the need for action to compensate for the handicaps affecting various disadvantaged groups including populations threatened by famine.

Summing up the conference, the director-general, Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, said that if adult education was to play its full role as a factor in the democratization of education and of society, it must continue to be inspired by a concern for equity.

In a package of recommendations, the conference participants laid down guidelines for the evolution of adult education which were principally concerned with the aims and policies of adult education, the use and transfer of appropriate, low-cost and innovative technologies, the training of adult educators, the relations between adult education and traditional forms of training, illiteracy as well as international co-operation, the contribution of adult education to development and the exchange of information. Stress was laid on the need to link adult education to economic production but the fundamental importance of general culture as a basis for facing current general problems was also seen as a prime need.

At the closing ceremony, the Canadian delegation said that the conference had provided a unique opportunity to gain an international perspective on the issues that will make adult education a world-wide process for achieving orderly development and for overcoming inequities among nations and groups, and preserving peace.



Desmond E. Berghofer, the deputy head of Canada's delegation, introduced the declaration recognizing the 'right to learn'.