

Trade treaty signed

Canada, the United States, Japan, the nine-country European Economic Community and eight other states have formally signed trade reform agreements worked out in the Tokyo Round talks, reports Associated Press.

Officials of the 84-country General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which administered the talks, said the number of signatory countries to the Tokyo Round tariff reductions and trade codes now totals 29.

Other signatories were Austria, Argentina, Finland, Hungary, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

Chile had signed parts of the treaty last October and eight other countries — Dominican Republic, Egypt, Iceland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Singapore and Zaire — recently signed a protocol for lowering tariffs.

A total of 99 states, more than two-thirds of them developing countries, had participated in the Tokyo Round negotiations, which began in 1973. Most states in the developing Third World and some industrial countries have not acceded to any of the agreements so far, but at least some of them are expected to join later.

Northern information service

Four northern research centres in Quebec universities are collaborating to establish a northern information network to make their joint resources available to interested groups and individuals.

Information Nord Québec/Information North Quebec (INQ) is the subject of an agreement just signed by Centre d'études nordiques (Université Laval), Centre d'ingénierie nordique (Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal), Centre for Northern Studies and Research (McGill University) and Centre de recherches du Moyen Nord (Université du Québec à Chicoutimi).

INQ will be an important data base for the North with a collective and co-operative bibliographical information service for Quebec that will pool the resources of the participating institutions. It will cover the literature related to the Quebec-Labrador peninsula, to the North and to cold regions in general, in all academic disciplines.

INQ also plans to publish a newsletter, which will contain information on the

activities of the participants, including research programs and their results, and on courses, seminars, lectures and films that are offered. There will also be news of visiting scientists and scholars and information about employment opportunities in northern research. New services of the documentation centres or libraries of the participants will be announced and described.

INQ hopes to offer on-line computer access to this co-operative data base and to produce specialized bibliographies on demand. Meanwhile, the participating centres will make use of interlibrary loans and photocopy services.

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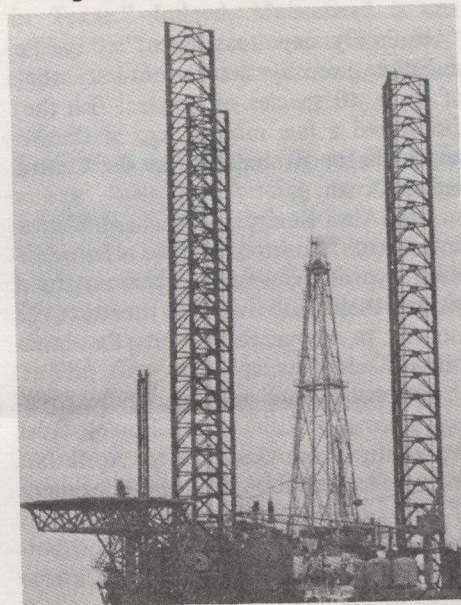
ICAO conference in Montreal

Current issues in the regulation of international air transport services and the establishment of international fares and rates are being discussed at the second Air Transport Conference organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal from February 12-28. Representatives from most of ICAO's 145 Contracting States, from non-contracting States and from international organizations are attending the conference.

The conference provides an opportunity for governments to take stock of the air transport market and to exchange views on such matters as regulation of capacity on international routes, policies regarding charter services and the establishment and enforcement of international fares and rates. Existing policy positions range between those of the U.S. and some other States for a more liberal market and those of many governments who want a firmly regulated international market. The conference also comes at a time of increasing concern over the economic outlook for international airlines in the face of rising costs, particularly for fuel.

The purpose of the conference is to seek ways of harmonizing policies of States concerning the regulation of international air transport, improving the machinery for the establishment of international fares and rates, and developing recommendations for further action by the ICAO Assembly which takes place in Montreal in September.

Oil rig contract



Davie Shipbuilding Limited of Lauzon, Quebec, has signed a \$35-million contract with Petrobras, Brazil's national oil company, for the construction of an offshore 300-foot jackup drilling platform, which is scheduled to go into operation off the Brazilian coast in late 1981. The Petrobras rig will be the first built by the company for operations at 300 feet (previous Davie rigs were designed to operate at 250 feet) and the contract is the company's first in the South American market. Davie-built rigs, like the one pictured above, have previously been operating in the Gulf of Mexico.

Households increasing more slowly

The number of Canadian households is expected to grow between 39 per cent and 47 per cent by 1991, a slower pace than in the 1961-76 period, Statistics Canada forecast recently.

The agency predicts the number of households — individuals or groups not necessarily related — will increase to between 10 and 10.5 million by 1991 as a result of a growing adult population. But the number of husband-wife households will account for a smaller proportion of the total, between 64 per cent and 66 per cent, down from 71 per cent in 1976.

The number of persons living alone or sharing accommodation will account for 27 per cent of the total households in 1991, up from 22 per cent in 1976, according to the agency.