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**INTERNATIONAL
PERSPECTIVES**
CANADA AND THE WORLD

Dear Reader:

With this issue of International Perspectives (Volume XIX, Number 1) dated January, 1990 we are proud to introduce our new format and increase our publishing frequency to 12 issues per year. To keep up with this increase in frequency and Canada's growing participation in world affairs we have been fortunate to gather a distinguished group of regular contributors each a specialist in his/her own field.

International Perspectives is totally independent in its views and directions. Its future does not depend in any way on government subsidy. We do however, depend on you, the reader and hope that we can count on you as a subscriber.

Sincerely,



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SIGNPOSTS

OTTAWA — Canada has extended its General Preferential Tariff to Hungary and Poland. In effect since December 1, it fixes most tariffs at two-thirds of the Most Favoured Nation rate but occasionally eliminates some tariffs. Preferential rates are accorded most manufactured and semi-manufactured goods and some agricultural products. Most textiles, clothing and footwear are excluded. GPT status for Poland was followed by an announcement that Canada's contribution to a \$1-billion OECD aid package for Poland would be \$30 million, including emergency food aid. In addition, Canada is prepared to reschedule \$2.6 billion in outstanding Polish debt.

WINNIPEG — Audrey McLaughlin, 53, a consultant and social scientist, is the new leader of the New Democratic Party and the first woman to head a mainstream federal political party in North America. She succeeds Ed Broadbent — who was subsequently named by Prime Minister Mulroney as first president of the Montreal-based International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, which will function as a clearing house and government advisory body about human rights issues abroad. Ms. McLaughlin defeated British Columbia MP David Barrett 1,316 to 1,072 on the fourth ballot of the leadership convention. First elected to the House of Commons in a July, 1987 bye-election in the Yukon, she led the leadership contest from the outset. There were five other candidates.

OTTAWA — It cost Canadian softwood lumber producers some \$1.89 million in fiscal 1988-89 to administer a special export tax that was effectively forced on Canada by the United States. A report tabled in the House of Commons shows that the Softwood Lumber Products Export Charge generated nearly \$67.05 million in the latest fiscal year. Once administration costs had been covered, the balance was distributed to the producing provinces eligible for a refund. Canada acceded to the tax in 1987 in the face of American threats to impose protective tariffs on Canadian softwood because provincial stumpage fees were seen by Washington as an unfair subsidy.

TORONTO — Canada's first war crimes trial has begun. Imre Finta, who came here from Hungary as a refugee in the 1950s, is accused of having organized in 1944 the detention of all Jews in Szeged and then deporting 1,815 to Nazi death camps in Poland. The prosecution was made possible by a 1987 Criminal Code amendment that permits trials for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in another country as far back as World War II. In the meantime, an Ottawa-area man, Michael Pawlowski, has been charged under the same statute with killing 490 Soviet Jews and Poles in Byelorussia in 1942. Released on bail shortly after his arrest in late December, Pawlowski, like Finta, has pleaded not guilty. Justice Department officials say a total of 45 suspects are under scrutiny and that more charges could be laid by mid-summer.

OTTAWA — The current Atomic Energy Control Board staff of 267 and 1989-90 budget of approximately \$26 million is being augmented by 15 person-years and \$2.1 million this fiscal year. It will be followed by 39 more PYs in each of the next two years as well as \$10.7 million in extra funds in 1990-91 and a further \$12.6 million in 1991-92. The AECB has been particularly short of reactor analysts and inspectors, radioisotope inspectors, and staff who watch over packaging and transportation of radioactive materials.

CAIRO — Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. is about a third of the way through a three-year exploratory project aimed at developing a power reactor industry in Egypt. The country's Nuclear Power Plants Authority is learning to manufacture Candu fuel bundles that will be test-burned at AECL's Chalk River laboratories in Ontario. Although some Canadian technology is being transferred, the project is strictly experimental in that no commercial agreement has been signed. Nevertheless, the project is seen as a key step toward the sale of a Candu reactor to Egypt.

OTTAWA — Countries committed to nuclear generation of electricity will be watching a new Canadian review of proposed underground disposal of spent reactor fuel and other waste. An en-

vironmental panel has been commissioned and Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard says it 'will review the safety and the acceptability' of this option as proposed and researched by Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. An independent panel of experts told Ottawa in 1977 that deep disposal in stable Canadian Shield igneous rock formations was the preferred option. That prompted a research and development commitment the following year.

HALIFAX — A \$33.8-million funding arrangement with the Canadian International Development Agency permits Dalhousie University to improve Indonesia's environmental management capabilities. Signed by External Relations Minister Monique Landry, the agreement underwrites the costs of advising various government agencies and private sector organizations on how to upgrade regional planning and resource information systems and on development of pollution control measures and environmental impact assessment procedures. It also provides for training of Indonesian professionals and assistance in drafting environmental management laws.

OTTAWA — A suggestion that Canada should reduce its dependence on foreign intelligence sources has fallen by the political wayside. Solicitor-General Pierre Blais says current policy is adequate because 'we have a very good relationship with our allies.' The Security Intelligence Review Committee had warned that reliance on external intelligence 'may pose a threat to Canadian independence in some circumstances', even from friendly nations. 'To the extent that covert sources of intelligence are an asset in gaining access to markets and technologies and in international bargaining, Canada will be at a disadvantage with its major trading partners.' The SIRC cited Australia's establishment of its own external network to concentrate on political and economic intelligence.

OTTAWA — Draft legislation extending intellectual property laws to the computer chip industry has been introduced in the House of Commons. The proposed Integrated Circuit Topography Act, Bill C-57, would give the two dozen