

Tariff agreement terminated

The Canadian Government is ending the preferential tariff treatment South Africa now receives under the 1932 Canada/South Africa Trade Agreement and the British Preferential Tariff (BPT), the Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald, and the Minister of Finance John Crosbie announced July 27.

Termination of the agreement will not take effect before the end of January 1980. Legislation to withdraw the non-contractual preferences accorded South Africa under the BPT is expected to be introduced by the Government this autumn in conjunction with legislation to implement the tariff results of the multi-lateral trade negotiations (MTN).

The withdrawal of preferential tariff treatment from South African goods will mean that South African exports to Canada will be subject to most-favoured-nation rates of duty. Canada/South Africa trade relations in the future will be governed by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The decision to end the agreement resulted from a review of preferences exchanged by the two countries particularly in light of the extensive tariff changes which will be implemented as a consequence of the MTN, the ministers explained. The size of the imbalance in preferential trade in South Africa's favour indicated there was little economic justification for Canada to continue exchanging preferential tariff treatment, said the ministers.

Canada/U.S. reach accord on transboundary air quality

The Canadian and U.S. governments have agreed on seven principles that will form the basis of a co-operative agreement to improve the air quality along the boundary between the two countries. A joint statement outlining the principles was released in Ottawa and Washington on July 26.

In the statement both governments expressed concern over the acid rain phenomenon affecting the environments of both countries and agreed that this problem could be dealt with most effectively on a co-operative basis.

Acid rain is the sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide released into the atmos-

phere by cars and industries burning fossil fuels. The acid, which pollutes lakes and upsets the plant-growing capacity in land, falls to earth in rain, snow or hail.

Discussions on transboundary air quality were initiated in November 1978, and during the year the Canadian and American governments established a Bilateral Research Consultation Group on the Long Range Transport of Air Pollutants to co-ordinate research in both countries.

"...Both Canada and the United States share a common determination to reduce or prevent transboundary air pollution which injures health and property on the other side of the boundary. Recognizing the importance and urgency of the problem and believing that a basis exists for the development of a co-operative bilateral agreement on air quality, the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada therefore intend to move their discussions beyond the informal stage to develop such an agreement," says the joint statement.

The following seven principles were enunciated in the statement:

- Prevention and reduction of transboundary air pollution.
- Introduction of new technologies to control emission of pollutants.
- Increased notification and consultation on developments that could result in transboundary air pollution.
- Increased scientific information and research on air pollution processes, effects, and emission control.
- Expanded monitoring and evaluation of the effects of transboundary air pollution.
- Assessment of long-term environmental trends.
- Consideration of such matters as liability and compensation for the impacts of air pollution.

International meetings in Canada

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will hold their joint annual meetings in Toronto in September 1982. About 5,000 delegates are expected to attend.

The two institutions are at the centre of the world's financial system. The IMF is responsible for overseeing the international monetary system, including the functioning of exchange markets and the provision of balance of payments finan-

cing. The IBRD (the World Bank) and its subsidiaries, the International Development Association and the International Finance Corporation, are the largest sources of financial assistance to the less developed countries.

The meetings will bring together ministers of finance, governors of central banks, senior officials, and special guests from the private financial sector of the 138 member countries of the IMF and the members of the World Bank.

Professional job outlook good

The job outlook for professional occupations remains good in Canada, according to a survey by the Technical Service Council, in Toronto.

Job vacancies rose 8.4 per cent in the second quarter of 1979 from the first quarter, according to the survey. During the previous 12 months, professional job vacancies increased 41.7 per cent across the country.

"Competition for qualified specialists is still intense...and we expect many of these shortages to continue for the balance of the year, although some new graduates are experiencing difficulty finding work," said N.A. Macdougall, the council's general manager and director.

The survey includes openings in manufacturing, mining, consulting and service industries.

The most serious shortages were for specialists with three to ten years' experience. Systems analysts and computer programmers were in greatest demand, with 225 job vacancies in the latest quarter. Mechanical sales engineers were next with 222 openings. There were 137 openings for plant engineers and 97 for accountants.

Other professional groups with high job vacancy rates were chemical process engineers, plant managers, petroleum engineers, mechanical draftsmen, electronic technologists, maintenance superintendents and municipal engineers. Openings for manufacturing engineers, industrial engineers and personnel managers also increased substantially.

There were fewer than ten openings during the latest quarter for each of the following groups: research analysts, research chemists, ceramic engineers, inorganic chemists, biologists, corporate lawyers, foresters, junior civil engineers and physicists.