

tember 9, one of his last days in that position. He said that Canada's observer status had placed "an undue limitation on the possibilities of our involvement" in the past, and that the maturing of Canada's relations with Latin America had led him to believe that Canada should reverse its stand. There are twenty-eight members of the OAS from North, South and Central America. Mr. MacGuigan said that Latin American countries believe Canada would bring distinct values to the organization, which had been criticized for being US-dominated. The House of Commons sub-committee which studies Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean will make its recommendations about Canadian membership in the OAS in its final report, expected in late October (*Globe and Mail*, September 10 and 18).

## **COSPAS/SARSAT PROJECT**

### **Satellite Agreement**

Defence Minister Gilles Lamontagne announced August 31 the progress of the COSPAS/SARSAT project, which has as its goal the use of satellites to detect and locate aircraft and ships in distress. Canada, the US, France and the Soviet Union participate in the venture. The first satellite within the framework of the project had been launched by the Soviet Union June 30. A period of joint technical checkout began on September 1 and will last from twelve to eighteen months while the system is evaluated by all four nations for its effectiveness in locating downed aircraft and vessels in distress (National Defence press release, August 31).

On September 18 it was reported that the satellite had assisted in the location of a downed plane in British Columbia, and that three men had been rescued as a result. The satellite, which makes twice-daily sweeps over Canada, provided a reading that was within twenty-two kilometres of the crash site. A search plane had been unable to pick up

signals from the plane's emergency crash transmitter (*Globe and Mail*, September 18).

## **GATT**

### **Preparation for Ministerial Meeting**

Federal and provincial ministers responsible for trade met in September to discuss the ministerial meeting of the signatories to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to be held in Geneva from November 24 to 27. The September 14 meeting was part of a series of consultations between International Trade Minister Ed Lumley and the provinces and various interest groups in the private sector (External Affairs press release, September 13). The ministers discussed the federal government's draft trade policy paper, and were briefed by Canada's ambassador to the GATT in Geneva, Donald MacPhail. Mr. MacPhail had earlier presented to GATT member countries a preparatory document listing world trade problems and possible solutions (*Globe and Mail*, August 2).

In a speech to the Fifth Quadrangular Conference at Georgetown University in Washington, September 20, Mr. Lumley outlined Canada's priorities to be presented at the GATT meeting. These priorities included support for measures which provide for:

- safeguards agreements to require signatories to follow the same rules and to ensure that exports are not acted against frivolously or unnecessarily;
- a dispute settlement system which renews the commitment to enforce GATT rights and obligations;
- contributions from developing countries to the international trading framework and respect for their legitimate interests;
- improved and more balanced agricultural and fish policies;
- the strengthening of existing GATT codes;
- examination of tariff escalation and the tariff structure of resource importing countries.

# **Policy**

## **FOREIGN**

### **Middle East**

Following a two-month period in which Canada and Canadians had increasingly expressed concern over the Israeli offensive against Palestinians in Lebanon and West Beirut, on August 2 Marcel Prud'homme (Lib., Saint Denis), the chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, asked External Affairs Minis-

ter Mark MacGuigan in the House of Commons whether he had lodged a protest with Israeli authorities after the latest bombings in Beirut in which hundreds more West Beirut citizens were reported killed. Mr. MacGuigan replied that he had decided to protest again to Israel, and had also recommended that the Canadian ambassador and embassy staff leave West Beirut "for their own safety and also to safeguard Canadian interests."

The same day, External Affairs issued a press release