

## **OECD**

### **Data Guidelines**

The Government of Canada announced June 29 its formal adherence to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Guidelines Governing the Protection of Privacy and the Transborder Flow of Personal Data (see "International Canada" for April and May 1984). The OECD was notified of the decision by Canada's Permanent Representative and Ambassador. The formal decision marks a reaffirmation of Canada's commitment to privacy protection, with the OECD guidelines establishing minimum standards to be applied in the handling of personal information, according to a Government of Canada news release June 29. The standards involve the collection, quality, use, disclosure, registration and security of personal information. Individuals are also provided with access rights to information regarding themselves. Economic benefits to be accrued through the transborder flow of information are also recognized by the guidelines, and such flow is promoted among member nations adhering to the requirements established by the guidelines. The Government, which had already applied the guideline principles to most departments and agencies, will now undertake a program to "encourage private sector corporations to develop and implement voluntary privacy protection codes."

### **Canadian Economic Survey**

In late July, the OECD issued its annual survey of the Canadian economy, and while this year's survey indicated a slowing of growth over the next eighteen months, it did note that it would remain above average among the non-Communist industrialized nations. A GNP growth of 3 percent for 1985 (similar to that for 1983) was predicted. The federal government was commended for the turnaround in the economy following the recent recession. As well, the progress in achieving reductions in price and wage inflation was recognized as notable (*The Citizen*, July 25 and 26).

While Canada had succeeded with its "expansionary federal fiscal stance and its relatively accommodating monetary policy," it must work further to reduce unemployment, the report continued. The OECD saw little chance for further improvement in reducing price and wage increases. The report recommended increased efforts in lowering the unemployment figure (currently hovering near 11 percent, and above the OECD average), and suggested more flexible minimum wage levels. Such flexibility might "improve the possibility of achieving stronger non-inflationary growth and increase the utilization of labor." The OECD report concluded by stating that market forces should play a greater role in setting wage levels, and that "somewhat greater wage differentials between skilled and unskilled labor could alleviate the problem."

## **PACIFIC RIM**

### **Asia-Pacific Foundation**

On June 1, then-Deputy Prime Minister Allan MacEachen announced the introduction into the House of

Commons of a Bill to establish the Asia-Pacific Foundation. The creation of the Foundation was regarded as an expression of Canada's commitment to its role as a Pacific Rim nation, and an acknowledgment of the importance Canada attaches to the "trans-Pacific dimensions of [its] national interests." The prime objective of the Foundation will be to foster mutual awareness and understanding between Canada and other Pacific Rim nations, as well as operating to strengthen cooperation in development programs. While working to reinforce Canada's commitment to the North-South dialogue, the Foundation will also encourage creative initiative in several areas, including business and policy programs, public affairs, cultural programs, and educational and training activities. Along with a federal government financial commitment of a grant of \$5 million over five years (excluding future program funding), provincial governments and the private sector will lend assistance to the Foundation.

The Foundation was incorporated by Act of Parliament and proclaimed on June 14, and Mr. MacEachen announced on June 29 appointments to the Board of Directors. Named as Chairman of the Board was John Bruk, former Chairman of the Founding Committee of the Asia-Pacific Foundation. The nine other directors represented a range of academic, labor, government and business backgrounds (External Affairs communiqués, June 1 and 29).

### **Expanding Trade**

Speaking before a delegation of officials from the People's Republic of China in late June, then-Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board Senator Hazen Argue spoke of the expanding trade relationship between Canada and the other nations of the Pacific Rim. Senator Argue noted that exports, especially in the grain sector, form a significant part of the continuing Canadian economic recovery. These expanding markets represent opportunities upon which Canada must endeavor to capitalize in order to sustain economic progress. While Canadian exports to the Pacific region reached \$7.7 billion in 1983, the figure was expected to grow significantly in future. Senator Argue emphasized that two-way trade necessitated mutual efforts to negotiate the removal of barriers that might restrict the growth of such trade (Canadian Wheat Board communiqué, June 20).

## **PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION**

### **Canadian Appointments**

On June 29, then-External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen announced the appointments of the Canadian members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The Court, set up under the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes of 1899, is composed of members who hold office for six years and are drawn from the four sectors of the legal community: the Bench, the academic community, the public service and the practising bar. The recently appointed Canadian members represent these