

Canada-Algeria commission discusses bilateral co-operation



Pictured at the meeting are: (left to right) Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism Charles Lapointe; Algerian Ambassador to Canada Missoum Sbih; Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Herb Gray and Algerian Minister of Commerce Abdelaziz Khelef.

The first meeting of the Canada-Algeria Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation was held in Ottawa, March 3-4.

The meeting was co-chaired by Canada's Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism Charles Lapointe and Algerian Minister of Commerce Abdelaziz Khelef. Canada's Ambassador to Algeria Louis Delvoie and Algeria's Ambassador to Canada Missoum Sbih also took part.

While in Ottawa, Mr. Khelef held talks with Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan, Minister of Finance Allan MacEachen, Secretary of State and Minister of Communications Francis Fox, Minister of Agriculture Eugene Whelan and Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Herb Gray.

During the Commission's meeting, the two delegations said they were pleased with the strengthening of bilateral co-operation. Both delegations said they were satisfied with the increase in exchanges between the two countries and with efforts to determine areas of possible economic, scientific and technical co-operation.

Algeria is Canada's largest African trade partner with an export market esti-

mated to have reached \$400 million in 1980. Agricultural products constitute the bulk of Canadian sales; asbestos, industrial machinery, lumber, miscellaneous equipment and prefabricated structures are also exported. Algeria has a \$1.2-billion line of credit granted by the Canadian Export Development Corporation.

The Commission also discussed Algeria's 1980-84 five-year plan which provides for about \$122 billion in Canadian investments. The Algerian delegation outlined the plan indicating that the country's industrialization program would focus on agriculture, water resources and infrastructure.

The two delegations also examined training and technical co-operation with the Canadian government indicating that it was prepared to provide assistance in this area at the request of the Algerian government.

At the end of his stay in Canada, Mr. Khelef extended an invitation to the Canadian government to hold the next session of the Commission in Algeria next year. Bilateral issues are also expected to be discussed in an upcoming visit to Algiers by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

Native women's jobs examined

The federal government and the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) have announced the formation of a joint working group to develop plans for meeting the employment needs of native women.

The group will be made up of four persons chosen by NWAC and four representatives from the federal Canadian Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC). It will be jointly chaired by the President of NWAC Marlene Pierre-Aggamaway and a chairperson appointed by Employment Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

The creation of the working group is the follow-up to a proposal made last September to a conference of Native CEIC personnel and native spokespersons, where Ms. Pierre-Aggamaway called for increased co-operation between government and native women.

The working group will examine existing employment programs and will develop employment strategies as a complement to the native employment policy. Mr. Axworthy also announced that the CEIC would provide resources to NWAC so they may employ a staff person whose function would be to act as a liaison with native women across Canada. In addition, 10 per cent of CEIC native training allocations in each region will be set aside for the training of native women.

New show broadcast in U.S.

A Canadian television company is providing Canadian news to 11 million homes in the United States by way of cable TV.

Dateline Canada, is a weekly half-hour roundup of Canadian news, business and sports produced since November 1979 by Global TV.

Executive producer Ken Mallett says the potential audience will grow as cable-TV expands in the United States. Unlike Canada, where about 75 per cent of urban homes have cable, the service now only reaches about a quarter of American homes.

The show, produced on Sundays and fed *via* satellite to cable services, may be stepped up to twice-weekly productions soon. The cable services schedule the program whenever they wish but often run it two or three times a week, said Mallett.