

weapons. Canada hopes that the negotiation of a comprehensive chemical-weapons treaty can begin in earnest at the Geneva Disarmament Conference next spring.

The Canadian Ambassador pointed out that the United Nations General Assembly had a key role in encouraging the exploration of new avenues to effective arms control and actual disarmament. In particular, the special session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which will meet in New York next May, provides a unique opportunity to reach a general international meeting of minds on new approaches to arms control and disarmament. Ambassador Jay renewed Canada's pledge to do all it could to make the special session as fruitful as possible and to continue to put forward, and work for, constructive suggestions for effective arms limitations and real disarmament.

The underlying supreme task of all disarmament efforts, he concluded, was to ensure the security of us all by reducing, and ultimately eliminating, the risk of war.

Indian housing program

A comprehensive housing program, jointly developed by Indian and Federal Government representatives, enabling Indian bands to plan, build and manage their housing on reserves was recently announced by the Indian and Northern Affairs Department.

The On-Reserve Housing Program provides for the building of 12,000 new houses and renovation of 5,400 units over five years. Priority will be given to Indians who earn up to \$4,000 a year. A six-year infrastructure plan will supply potable water, safe waste-disposal systems, electricity, roads and fire protection for the new and renovated houses.

Members of Indian bands will help in decisions on such items as financing, technical training and housing-related social services.

One feature of the housing program is the allowance for client equity, i.e. the individual's contribution may be made in cash or by individual, group or band labour. Up to two-thirds of total labour costs may be paid through Canada Works and other housing-related training programs.

Applicants may combine all or some of four features available in the basic funding and resource formula. These fea-

tures are:

- a subsidy up to \$12,000 based on individual needs as determined by the band, according to a mutually acceptable formula;

- a contribution in cash or labour by individual, group or band (the contribution to be determined by the band);

- equity-generating labour component such as the Commission of Employment and Immigration and Indian Affairs Department's job-creating programs;

- a loan from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation or other lender, according to the applicant's ability to pay.

The Indian Affairs Department will coordinate and arrange funds and resources from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Commission of Employment and Immigration, and the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and National Health and Welfare.

The Ministry of State for Urban Affairs is also authorized to introduce amendments to the National Housing Act, which would have the effect of allowing Indian band councils to borrow and to apply for aid under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program.

Some expected benefits are the growth of Indian-owned businesses related to construction, infrastructure, the supply of building materials, manufacture of housing components, transportation of goods and related service industries.

The management by Indians of housing is expected to have wide-ranging socio-economic benefits for reserve residents, from employment and training to improved home and study environment for school children.

Visitor from Guyana

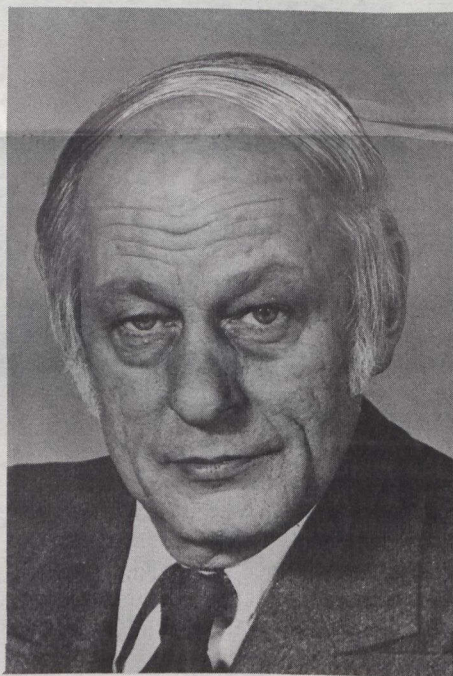
On his recent ten-day visit to Canada, Guyanese Prime Minister Forbes Burnham discussed with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau the Canadian program of assistance to his country and stressed the need for a new economic order between industrialized countries and developing nations. Mr. Burnham explained that costs of manufactured items from wealthy countries had risen beyond the prices of raw materials from poor countries.

Guyana, which receives technical assistance from Canada for its forestry and fishing industries, is seeking Canadian and European involvement in a hydro-electric dam project. According to Prime Minister

Burnham, Canada is "not viewed with suspicion by the developing countries because it has never had colonies and was never an imperialist power".

During his stay in Canada Mr. Burnham accepted an honorary doctorate of laws from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and visited Guyanese communities in Montreal and Toronto.

Quebec Premier in France



Premier René Lévesque of Quebec recently paid a three-day official visit to Paris, during which he addressed members of the French National Assembly in a room near the main Assembly Hall. He had spent a few days on vacation in France before beginning his official visit on November 2.

Welcoming the Quebec Premier at Orly Airport, Prime Minister Raymond Barre spoke of the warm relations between the province and France. Discussions between Mr. Lévesque and Mr. Barre covered expanded economic and cultural relations. A communiqué issued at the end of the visit stated that a five-year joint program of copper exploration in Quebec would be signed. The project will be financed equally by Quebec and France.

While he was in France, Mr. Lévesque received the title Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour from President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing at a luncheon given by the President. He was also a guest of Mayor Jacques Chirac at Paris City Hall.