

Agriculture pact with China

Canada and China signed a memorandum of understanding on agricultural co-operation in Peking, September 8.

The memorandum, between Agriculture Canada and China's Ministries of Agriculture and State Farms and Land Reclamation, calls for intensified co-operation between the two countries in several areas, including joint projects, exchanges of information and materials, scientific visits and commercial contacts.

The first activity to be carried out under the memorandum will be the visit to Canada of a Chinese delegation studying agricultural legislation.

"This is the first such memorandum of understanding signed by a Canadian government department with its Chinese counterpart," Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan said. "There will be annual consultations between the Canadian and Chinese agriculture departments to review the implementation of the agreement."

Mr. Whelan announced the agreement in a press conference in China's Great Hall of the People, following a meeting with Vice-Premier Wan Li, chairman of China's state agricultural commission.

There are a number of exchanges and projects that may be carried out in 1980-81 in implementing the memorandum of understanding. These include joint research on rangeland management, a model ranch in northeast China, exchanges of plant and animal breeding materials, and an examination of the feasibility of work-study programs.

Food aid to Sudan

A memorandum of understanding for \$1.5 million in food aid to Sudan was signed recently in Khartoum by Canadian Ambassador Jean-Marie Déry and Sayed Farouk el Maghbool, Minister of Co-operation, Trade and Supply for Sudan.

An estimated 3,800 metric tons of Canadian wheat flour is expected to arrive in Sudan in November or December. Not only will the wheat flour increase the availability of food supply, but the government of Sudan will, by selling it on the open market, generate funds to cover the local costs of some Canadian International Development Agency-assisted development projects and alleviate a serious balance-of-payments problem.

International aid increased

Canada will increase its contributions to international development assistance, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan said in a statement at the conclusion of the eleventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, September 15.

Dr. MacGuigan said that Canada would increase its official development assistance to .5 per cent of the gross national product by the middle of the decade. He said the Canadian government plans to increase its assistance to a level of .7 per cent of the gross national product by the end of the decade.

The Minister also said that Canada was "very pleased" that there had been agreement on a new international development strategy during the special session. "Canada believes that the strategy can and should stand on its own merits," he said.

Oil find Canada's largest

Speculation over the viability of the Hibernia exploratory well, off the coast of Newfoundland, ended recently when Gulf Canada Resources Incorporated announced that the well was "by far Canada's most prolific discovery ever".

But R.H. Carlyle, Gulf's senior vice-president told a two-day conference on resource management that the Grand Banks alone may represent the largest oil-field ever found in the world.

He said industry estimates show that the area has oil reserves of at least ten billion barrels and potential gas reserves of more than 15 trillion cubic feet.

He added that the Hibernia test well, in which Gulf and Mobil Oil Canada Limited are partners, will tap between one billion and two billion barrels, of oil itself. He said this indicates a probable production capacity in excess of 20,000 barrels a day.

The largest oil discovery in Canadian history was the Pembina field in Alberta during the 1950s. Pembina's yield of recoverable conventional light and heavy crude was pegged at 1.5 billion barrels, of which 875 million barrels had been produced by the end of 1978. The National Energy Board estimated Canadian reserves of recoverable conventional light and heavy crude at 5.8 billion barrels at December 31, 1978.

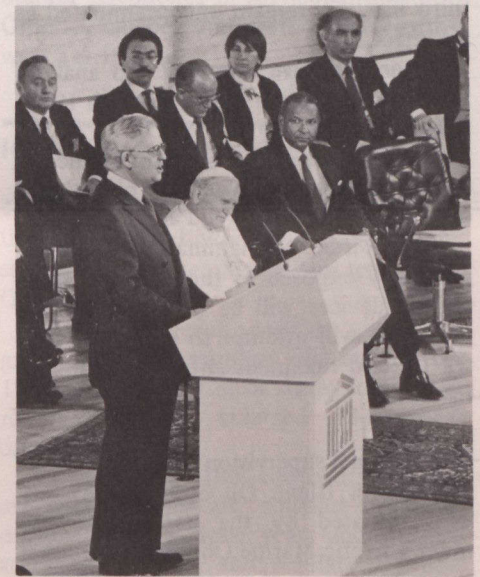
Task force studies pollution

Details of a Canada-Ontario task force to study sulphur emission control in the Sudbury Basin were announced recently by federal Environment Minister John Roberts and Ontario Environment Minister Harry Parrott.

As part of the Ontario control program for INCO and the Sudbury Basin announced May 1 by Dr. Parrott, the task force will assess possible technologies to further reduce emissions. Task force members will focus on the emissions from operations of INCO Limited and Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited in Sudbury. Mr. Roberts said the "task force would be an integral part of the Canadian flight against acid rain".

The task force is composed of senior representatives of the federal Departments of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources, and the Ontario Ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources. In addition, one public representative has been nominated by each government. A Canada-Ontario advisory group has also been established to provide technical back up.

UNESCO president greets Pope



Napoléon LeBlanc (standing), a professor from Laval University in Quebec City and president of the general conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, greets Pope John-Paul II (to the right of podium) during his visit this summer to the organization's headquarters in Paris.