

Minister of Electricity and Energy Mr. Maher Abaza signed on behalf of Egypt. Mr. Abaza was in Ottawa on a week-long visit to Canada. According to a Government of Canada press release May 17, the agreement "paves the way for cooperation in such areas as the possible supply of CANDU reactors to Egypt, the supply of uranium to be used as fuel, the implementation of joint nuclear research projects and the application of nuclear energy to fields such as agriculture, industry and medicine." In addition, the agreement facilitates exchanges of experts, technicians and specialists related to the development of nuclear energy.

On May 12 the *Globe and Mail* reported that the intention to sign the agreement represented "the first indication that Ottawa had reversed its long-standing ban on selling nuclear technology to the politically unstable Middle East." The *Globe and Mail* article stated that anti-nuclear groups condemned the move, and had accused Ottawa of taking unnecessary risks in an attempt to prop up the ailing domestic nuclear industry.

EL SALVADOR

Report of Unofficial Election Observers

Progressive Conservative MPs Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel) and Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West), who visited El Salvador as unofficial election observers in late March, appeared before the House of Commons Subcommittee on Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean April 27. The observers engaged in debate with sub-committee members who were not of the same opinion that the elections were free and fair.

Four members of the sub-committee had returned to Canada and released a statement March 2 which said that in their judgement, the electoral process in El Salvador was gravely flawed. During the April 27 meeting, Mr. Stevens told the members that "the flaws you referred to were perhaps misunderstandings or misinformation." Both sides questioned each other's findings and viewpoints until "temperatures reached the boiling point" during an exchange between Pauline Jewett (NDP, New Westminster-Coquitlam) and Mr. Stevens (*Globe and Mail*, April 28).

FRANCE

Visit of French Minister of State for External Trade

French Minister of State for External Trade, Michel Jobert, was in Canada in early April to talk about expanding trade and investment flows between France and Canada. In a *Financial Post* interview published April 3, Mr. Jobert pointed to Canada's banking laws as an impediment to trade and investment. Canada has had a trade

surplus with France in the past two years (*Financial Post*, April 3).

St. Pierre & Miquelon

French Senator Marc Plantagenest, who represents the islands of St. Pierre & Miquelon, wrote in the Paris daily *Le Monde* that he fears that the French islands off the coast of Newfoundland could become "the Falklands of the North Atlantic" (*Globe and Mail*, April 20). Although Mr. Plantagenest said it was "hardly likely" that Canada would invade the islands, he noted geographic similarities between the Falklands and St. Pierre & Miquelon. The French islands fall within Canada's economic zone, and oil and gas deposits have been found in the area. According to a *Globe and Mail* report (April 20), Mr. Plantagenest suggested that the political status of the French islands be changed to take them out of the sphere of the European Economic Community, removing a major stumbling block to a negotiated settlement on the boundary waters. Presently, the islands are considered part of the EEC and Canada fears that fishing fleets of common market countries would have access to the area, Mr. Plantagenest was quoted as saying (*Globe and Mail*, April 20).

Visit of French Premier Mauroy

According to media reports, French Premier Pierre Mauroy was successful in his expressed attempt to "navigate between the maple leaf and the fleur-de-lis while trying not to make waves" during a visit to Canada between April 22 and April 27.

Mr. Mauroy's itinerary included visits to Ottawa, Toronto and Moncton before ending his trip in Quebec. There he visited Chicoutimi, Montreal and Quebec City. Economic cooperation was the focus of Mr. Mauroy's talks with businessmen and federal ministers. He also met with premiers and francophone groups from Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec. Prime Minister Trudeau stated April 24 that relations between Canada and France had not been "especially affectionate" since 1967, the year when Charles de Gaulle shouted "Vive le Québec libre" in Montreal (*Citizen*, April 24). Mr. Mauroy's visit was devoted to making relations more realistic and normal (*Toronto Star*, April 24).

Discussions between Prime Minister Trudeau and the French Premier touched on areas such as telecommunications, aeronautics and energy with the aim of increased industrial cooperation and a doubling of trade between the two countries (*Citizen*, April 24). The fishing rights dispute involving the French islands of St. Pierre & Miquelon and Canada over the overlapping 200 nautical mile economic zone was discussed by Prime Minister Trudeau and Mr. Mauroy, leaving both leaders "optimistic that a solution is within reach." Talks are expected to intensify during the next few months (*Citizen*, April 24).

The cultural and language ties between francophone Canadians and France were acknowledged by Mr. Mauroy in his visits to Quebec and with francophone groups in Ontario and New Brunswick. He spoke of continuing and strengthening France's special relationship with Quebec,