
Foreign policy *(Continued from P. 2)*

European Commission, provided a good opportunity to assess the industrial co-operation activities undertaken under the Framework Agreement and to provide guidance and direction to future work. The Government reiterated its support for the economic and political integration of Europe while underlining the importance of having Canada's basic interests taken fully into account by the EC Nine. We have worked to give economic

stimulus to our bilateral relationships with the FRG and France in particular, but also with Italy. The Prime Minister's visits to several European countries, and the visit to Canada of Prime Minister Barre of France, reflected Canada's determination to strengthen its relations with Europe. We are particularly determined to achieve a level of economic exchanges commensurate with the importance of the Canadian and European economies and with the quality of our political dialogue.

Our efforts last year to expand and di-

versify economic and political relations with Japan resulted in agreements on upgraded nuclear safeguards and fisheries as well as in a gratifying increase of contacts at the political level. Canada's economic relations with Japan grew further during 1978 and the second meeting of the Joint Economic Committee next week in Tokyo [see P. 3] should help to maintain the momentum. The fiftieth anniversary this year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Japan will be an occasion for increased political and cultural contacts and activity....

News briefs

Japan has signed a one-year agreement for the purchase from Canada of 1.3 million tonnes of wheat and 800,000 tonnes of barley in the current calendar year.

The Progressive Conservative government of Ontario promised in its Throne Speech of March 6 to create more jobs, train more tradesmen, support Canadian-made goods and promote tourism in the province. Premier Davis will also seek a resolution in the House in support of national unity.

CP Air of Vancouver says that beginning April 17 it will reduce its fare structure in Western Canada with discounts from regular economy rates ranging from 35 per cent to 45 per cent. The new Totem fares, subject to government approval, will be available year round. The airline will also offer a 30-day advance purchase fare on flights between Vancouver and Tokyo representing reductions of 29 per cent to 35 per cent from normal fees.

Plans to drill a wildcat well off Newfoundland this summer at a cost of \$25 million have been approved by Texaco Canada, Petro-Canada, Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas, Home Oil and Dome Petroleum.

The Bank of Montreal has established a wholly-owned subsidiary in Singapore to be named Bank of Montreal Asia Limited.

Large increases in the price of beef, flour and fresh produce pushed food prices up 3.1 per cent in the four weeks ended February 15, the Anti-Inflation Board reported on February 23.

Nissan Motor Company has agreed to sign a remission order with Canada to increase the number of Canadian-made parts in imported vehicles, Patrick Lavelle, president of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association of Canada has announced.

The forty-ninth New Brunswick Legislature opened on March 12. Highlights of the Speech from the Throne include: major but unspecified changes in child and family law; a toll-free inquiry service for the public and a study group to prepare modernization plans for the forest industry.

Nelson M. Davis, the multi-millionaire chairman of Argus Corporation Ltd., died recently at his winter home in Arizona. He was 72. Mr. Davis, who amassed his fortune mainly from transportation and trucking, became chairman of Argus in 1978 when Conrad M. Black took over as president of the holding company, which controls such enterprises as Massey-Ferguson Ltd., Dominion Stores Ltd. and Hollinger Mines Ltd.

The country's first centre for occupational health and safety will be established in Hamilton. The centre, financed by the Federal Government, will have an initial annual budget of \$1 million, to rise eventually to \$8 million.

The Canadian UNICEF committee will receive \$4.7 million for 14 health improvement projects in the Third World

from the Canadian International Development Agency. Seven of the projects are for the provision of safe drinking water; two are preventive medicine programs. Others cover nutrition, education and community improvement.

Premier Peter Lougheed's Progressive Conservatives easily won re-election in Alberta on March 14, retaining the 69 seats they held at dissolution and gaining four new seats created by redistribution, and one previously held by an independent. The remaining five seats went to the Social Credit Party (four), once dominant in the province, and the New Democratic Party (one). The Liberals, with less than 6 per cent of the popular vote, lost in all ridings.

Guaranteed loans to small businesses totalled \$165.8 million in 1978, nearly double the previous year's figure of \$96.2 million, Minister for Small Business Anthony Abbott has announced. Preliminary figures indicate that banks and other financial institutions negotiated nearly 7,000 such loans, compared with 4,882 loans in 1978.

Former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, 83, is planning a trip to the North Pole. "That's one place I've always wanted to see," said the Conservative MP, who will make the visit after the next federal election.

The National Commission on Inflation (NCI), which will be able to compel companies to reveal information on prices and profits, has been created by the Federal Government. Harold Renouf, chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board, which will disband after it finishes processing returns under the mandatory wage and price controls program for 1978, becomes the NCI's chairman. The new commission will not have the power to roll back increases.

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