
Visitor from Zaire

The Commissioner of State for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of the Republic of Zaire, Umba di Lutete, visited Ottawa from March 5 to 7 — one of a number of visits he is making to Western capitals for economic reasons.

While in Ottawa Mr. di Lutete met Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, Canadian International Development Agency President Michel Dupuy and Export Development Corporation President J.A. MacDonald, as well as other Government officials.

Canada hosts IDB meeting

For the first time since it was established in 1959, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will hold its annual meeting in Canada this spring. Some 2,000 representatives and guests from 41 member countries, including 13 in Europe as well as Japan and Israel, are expected to be present in Vancouver, British Columbia, from April 17 to 19.

The IDB was formed 19 years ago to accelerate economic and social development of Latin American members. While it was a purely regional institution at first, the Bank broadly expanded its membership to include non-regional countries. It is the principal channel for multilateral development assistance in Latin America. So far, the Bank has made loans totalling over \$10 billion (U.S.), half of which were at concessional rates, for projects in the areas of agriculture, energy, transportation and communications and social infrastructure.

Although Canada did not formally join until 1972, it had been associated with the Bank as early as 1964, when an agreement was signed for setting up a special Canadian fund to which \$74 million (U.S.) had been contributed by the end of 1971. Canada's financial participation in the IDB involves the subscription of \$488.6 million (U.S.) to the capital stock. Of this amount \$67.2 million is paid in and \$402.7 million is callable. Canada is also contributing \$125.8 million (U.S.) to a special operations fund. The Bank also administers a Canadian project-preparation fund set up in 1974 to finance technical co-operation activities. The fund's resources currently stand at \$9 million (U.S.). Canada's voting power, based on

capital subscriptions, stands at 4.7 per cent, which is evidence of the importance this country attaches to its commitment to the institution and to development assistance in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The IDB board of governors meets annually to consider the Bank's operations and financial statements, as well as major outstanding issues. Its delegates, called governors, are usually the ministers of finance or governors of central banks. Alternate governors are also appointed.

Chrétien is chairman

Finance Minister Jean Chrétien is Canada's governor on the IDB board. Alternate governor is Canadian International Development Agency President Michel Dupuy. Mr. Chrétien, in his capacity as governor of the host country, will be chairman of the board at the Vancouver meeting. This meeting will serve to strengthen existing political, commercial and trade links with countries of Latin America. As host, Canada will demonstrate to this important organization the importance it places on its relations with developing countries in the hemisphere. Many opportunities will be available for the Canadian delegates to discuss with other delegations bilateral matters of mutual interest.

Nuclear icebreaker designed

The Federal Government has approved the design of Canada's first combination nuclear- and gas-turbine icebreaker.

The \$6-million 150,000-shaft horsepower icebreaker "will be designed to give year-round, highly-visible and effective expression of Canada's sovereignty in Canadian Arctic waters and will add greatly to our knowledge and capabilities of operating in ice-covered waters", said Transport Minister Otto Lang. The vessel will be equivalent to an Arctic class-10 icebreaker, capable of maintaining continuous forward motion in ice ten feet thick.

Three propulsion options were considered for the ship: conventional fossil fuel, all nuclear, or a hybrid of nuclear-gas turbine power. The hybrid was judged the most versatile, with its higher capital costs offset by the lower operating costs over the vessel's lifetime.

The hybrid, which could be in operation by 1985, will need conventional re-

fuelling about once every three months and nuclear refuelling only once every four years. The icebreaker's functions could include exploration and supply operations, ice surveillance, hydrography, pollution monitoring and clean-up, and involvement in rescue operations.

Day care stressed on International Women's Day

International Women's Day on March 8 was marked by several rallies across Canada, some of which were held on the weekend of March 12.

In Toronto, an estimated 1,500 demonstrators marched for two hours in what was described as the largest women's march in Metro. Participants came from as far away as Kingston, Ontario and Rochester, New York.

In addition to the demands for equal salary and job opportunities, abortion on demand, homosexual rights and fair rape trials, speakers at a rally at Toronto's Convocation Hall denounced cutbacks in child care services, which were proposed in the Ontario government's budget recently. Carolyne Egan, a member of the International Women's Day Coalition and an organizer of the march in Toronto, said that day-care centres would be closed. "When cutbacks come, women are left to pick up the burden of social services that government institutions drop."

Trip to French Africa

The Minister of Supply and Services and Adviser for Francophone Affairs to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Jean-Pierre Goyer, visited the French-speaking African nations of Togo, Benin and Gabon from March 8 to 13.

Mr. Goyer discussed with his hosts bilateral and multilateral relations including political matters and trade and development questions.

At the invitation of the Benin authorities, Mr. Goyer participated in the inauguration of the Collège Polytechnique Universitaire, an important project in the field of co-operation between Canada and Benin.

In Gabon, Mr. Goyer represented Prime Minister Trudeau at the tenth anniversary ceremonies marking the establishment of the Parti Démocratique Gabonais.