

## Canadian Embassy in Iran

The operations of the Canadian Embassy in Tehran have been temporarily suspended and the Canadian Ambassador, Kenneth Taylor, and all Canada-based staff withdrawn from Iran, the Department of External Affairs announced January 28.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald said January 29 that the closing of the Embassy was effected to assist American diplomats and their wives, and personnel at the Embassy to escape danger.

Six Americans, who were not in the United States Embassy when Islamic students took over the building on November 4, took refuge in the Canadian Embassy. They were later taken to the residences of Canadian diplomats.

Because each day that passed could have led to the revealing of the secret that was endangering the lives of the Canadians and Americans, the Embassy was closed temporarily and on January 28 the six Americans left Tehran on regular flights.

Canada does not intend to break off or suspend relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and while Canadian diplomatic staff are absent from Iran, bilateral relations will be conducted through the Iranian Embassy in Ottawa and Canadian diplomatic personnel will make periodic visits to Iran.

## Statement on Sakharov

*Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald made the following statement, January 23, on the detention and internal exile of the distinguished Soviet physicist, Andrei Sakharov:*

The Canadian Government condemns the action taken by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in summarily stripping Dr. Andrei Sakharov of his Soviet honours and in sentencing this world renowned physicist to internal exile within the U.S.S.R. Dr. Sakharov is a highly distinguished member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and one of the Soviet Union's leading human rights advocates. He is a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize and is admired throughout the world for his dedication to man's fundamental freedoms and for his humanitarian efforts on behalf of Soviet dissidents and their families.

Dr. Sakharov has an immense following in Canada among those who share his devotion to the rule of law and human dignity. His forced exile is of extraordinary significance in that Dr. Sakharov's championing of human rights within the U.S.S.R. has commanded public attention throughout Europe and North America. In taking action against him, the Soviet authorities have made it clear that their tolerance of dissent has come to an end and that Dr. Sakharov, who carried the hopes of countless thousands both within the Soviet Union and outside it, can do so no longer. His fate, therefore, should be of the deepest concern to all free societies.

The Canadian Government [requests] that the Soviet Government restore Dr. Sakharov's honours and release him from his sentence of exile.

## Innovation foundation for U. of T.

The University of Toronto has announced formation of a foundation through which the university can work with business and industry to achieve beneficial use of university research.

The Innovation Foundation is already in the process of marketing about 20 inventions and research ideas. Among them are a new component for fluorescent lighting that would result in a 25 percent energy saving, a new intravenous fluid, and a new means of sorting mica flakes for use in mica-reinforced plastics. Mica-reinforced plastic is a University of Toronto invention that is in extensive use today but neither the university nor Canadian industry benefited from it originally because there was no effective mechanism through which to market the university's research products.

The University of Toronto has a large pool of researchers and inventors — some 2,000 senior faculty members and 6,000 postgraduate students — and an annual research budget of about \$45 million from combined government and industry sources.

Gordon Slemon, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, who proposed the foundation said, "The foundation will deal with any innovation from the University, an idea, a computer program, or a trademark, but most of what we would market would be from scientific research in such areas as engineering, medicine, physics and chemistry."

## Relief effort for Kampuchea

The Cabinet has approved an additional contribution of \$10 million to meet the Canadian pledge made by Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald last November in New York at the Special United Nations Pledging Conference for Emergency Assistance to the People of Kampuchea.

As already indicated these funds will be used in this fiscal year to support the relief activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and projects undertaken by various Canadian non-governmental organizations working in Kampuchea and in Thailand. This contribution, combined with the earlier \$5 million which has already been provided to the international organizations concerned, will place the total Canadian contribution at \$15 million.

## U.S. ends exemption for nurses

Nurses educated and licensed in Canada no longer enjoy special status when applying for visas to work in the United States.

For years, Canada was the only country exempted from U.S. immigration laws that required all other foreign nurses to pass written tests including proficiency in the English language.

Canadian and U.S. nursing organizations are publicizing the new requirement of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service removing the exemption.

Under the new rule, all foreign nurses will be required to pass the examination in English before they can obtain an occupational preference visa, known as H-1, to work as registered nurses in the U.S.

The nurses also will have to pass state board examinations to obtain licences, and in some states there are residency and citizenship requirements.

For French-speaking, Quebec-registered nurses seeking U.S. employment, there is no provision for another language for the screening test. English is mandatory.

The test will be given for nurses in Canada in three cities — Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver — next April 2 by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools of Philadelphia.