

Canadian delegation to Habitat

Five federal ministers, three federal Members of Parliament, ten provincial ministers and nine mayors are included in a 70-member Canadian delegation to Habitat, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, to be held in Vancouver from May 31 to June 11. Federal, provincial and municipal advisers and representatives of Canadian non-governmental organizations make up the balance of the delegation.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, and the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, Barney Danson, will be co-chairmen of the delegation. Justice Minister Ron Basford will be first vice-chairman.

Dr. Victor Goldbloom, Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs and of the Environment, will be second vice-chairman. Dr. Goldbloom made the original proposal on behalf of Canada at the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Environment to host a UN settlements conference.

Environment Minister Jean Marchand and Communications Minister Jeanne Sauvé, an alternate representative, will complete the federal Cabinet contingent on the delegation. Canadian Commissioner-General for Habitat is James W. MacNeill.

Caribbean seasonal workers

Seasonal workers from the Caribbean islands will be admitted to Canada to assist farmers and food processors in the growing, harvesting and processing of the fruit, tobacco and vegetable crops this year.

The Caribbean seasonal program has been in effect since 1966 to overcome shortages of Canadian workers during

peak demand periods. This year the Caribbean seasonal workers program has been extended to include the governments of Grenada; the five West Indies Associated States of Antigua, Dominica, St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent;

and Montserrat. Prior to this year the program was conducted in co-operation with the governments of Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Last year 5,586 Caribbean workers were temporarily employed in agriculture in Canada.

News briefs

■ Prime Minister Trudeau plans to negotiate a new oil price privately with Alberta and Saskatchewan after failing to get agreement on an increase at a meeting with provincial premiers on May 6. If that failed, he said, the Federal Government would be faced with a decision to raise prices unilaterally, imposing it on the country through the Petroleum Administration Act.

■ An unprecedented decision by parties in the West Coast grain industry to submit voluntarily to binding arbitration marks a breakthrough in Canadian labour relations, Labour Minister John Munro said recently. He said he hoped the arbitration-mediation step would mean a permanent end to the tumultuous pattern of strikes and lockouts in the industry, affecting Canadian grain exports.

■ Manitoba's new weight-based automobile registration system, which starts next year, will include a formula to reduce fees for older, heavier cars and station wagons, Manitoba Premier Ed Schreyer announced on April 30. The new fees announced in the budget of April 13, will be cut by some 10 per cent for each year of a car's age and will apply until the minimum fee level is reached.

■ Delays in opening a new pipeline from Sarnia, Ontario, to Montreal will keep oil exports to the United States at 510,000 barrels a day in June, the National Energy Board said recently.

■ The Government will consider giving broadcasters lucrative new freedom to expand into cable television if they promise to rid the airwaves of unnecessary violence and improve domestic programming, Communications Minister Jeanne Sauvé said. Mrs. Sauvé told the Canadian Association of Broadcasters that the Government would consider a major restructuring of the national broadcast industry, relaxing rules

against ownership of cable systems by broadcasters. But, she added, revenues from any such change must be used in the production of non-violent Canadian programs.

■ The federal Manpower Department is establishing a native employment division in a bid to reduce the native unemployment rate, which is many times higher than that of other groups, Manpower Minister Robert Andras says.

■ There were 187,881 immigrants to Canada last year, a 14 per cent decline from the 218,465 who came here in 1974. Immigration Minister Andras said his Department expected a further decrease in immigration in 1976 when the total is expected to be between 140,000 and 145,000.

■ Canada may be facing its own internal cod war in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Fishermen along New Brunswick's northeast and southeast coasts have asked Fisheries Minister Roméo LeBlanc to investigate what they say is an unusually large number of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland trawlers fishing cod in the Gulf. Mr. LeBlanc said some fish must be left for the New Brunswick and Gaspé fishermen whose smaller boats cannot operate in the ice as the trawlers can.

■ Canada and the West African country of Benin, formerly Dahomey, have agreed to continue a program of developmental co-operation. The agreement was reached during a two-day visit by Benin's Foreign Affairs Minister Michel Alladaye.

■ Montreal and Philadelphia are the two teams playing in the National Hockey League finals of the Stanley Cup. Montreal beat New York Islanders 4-1 and Philadelphia beat Boston 4-1 in the best-of-seven games semi-finals. At press time, May 12, Montreal was leading two games to none in the finals. They beat Philadelphia 4-3 on May 9 and 2-1 on May 11, both games played at Montreal. The third game was scheduled for May 13 at Philadelphia.

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