

Mr. Jamieson in Washington

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson (left) had his first exchange of views with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger when they met during the opening week of the United Nations General Assembly in New York at the end of September. The second meeting took place in Washington on October 15, when the two ministers reviewed a wide range of bilateral and international issues, including maritime boundaries and fisheries relations, Southern Africa, nuclear non-proliferation, transboundary environmental matters, border television problems, energy and other general economic questions.



Canada/China trade pact extended

On October 13, the sixth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and China, the two countries agreed to extend their trade agreement.

In a brief ceremony at External Affairs' headquarters in Ottawa, Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson and Ambassador Chang Wenchin of the People's Republic of China signed an exchange of notes constituting an agreement to extend the Canada/China Trade Agreement of 1973.

The exchange of most-favoured-nation treatment and periodic trade consultations are provided for in the agreement, which was signed originally by Prime Minister Trudeau and the late Chinese Premier Chou En-lai in 1973.

Minister to visit Paris

The first official visit to France by a Canadian foreign minister in ten years will take place next month when Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson meets with France's foreign minister, Louis de Guiringaud, who invited him to Paris.

The two ministers will discuss bilateral and multilateral questions during Mr. Jamieson's stay in the French capital from November 2 to 3.

The last official visit to France by a Canadian External Affairs minister was made by Paul Martin in 1966.

Theatre training inquiry

The Canada Council has announced the establishment of a committee of inquiry into professional training for theatre including acting, stage design, directing, management, technical design, production and artistic direction.

According to director Charles Lussier, this study has been undertaken in response to concerns expressed by the theatre community. The scarcity of jobs in theatre – particularly for graduates of theatre schools – has raised serious questions. "For example, does the training given to these young people prepare them sufficiently for the practicalities of a career in theatre? What are the needs in this area, and what would be the most proper methods and structures to provide for them?"

The committee, composed of five well-known figures from the theatre world, will consult with theatre-training institutions across Canada and numerous representatives from the performing arts community, including students.

Malcolm Black, a professor of theatre at York University in Toronto, will chair the committee, which also includes Gilles Marsolais, director, actor and professor of drama in Montreal; Gordon Peacock, chairman of the drama department at the University of Alberta in Edmonton; Cameron Porteous, design director and associate director of Playhouse Theatre in Vancouver; and

Jean-Pierre Ronfard, director and founding member of the Théâtre expérimental de Montréal.

This is the third study which the Council has commissioned on artistic training. The first, by Peter Brinson, was on professional training in ballet. The second, which is currently under way, deals with music training, and its author, Helmut Blume, expects to present his report in the spring.

Canadian Book Exchange Centre helps overseas libraries

Dr. Carlos Tejada, Director of Instituto de Nutricion de Centro America y Panama in Guatemala, recently appealed to several Canadian research libraries for help in rebuilding the library collection destroyed by fire when the Institute was shattered during the earthquake. Since many Canadian libraries are sending their surplus materials to the Canadian Book Exchange Centre (CBEC), the libraries forwarded Dr. Tejada's appeal to the Centre, and it responded by sending 6,838 issues of periodicals and 55 foreign official publications to Guatemala.

These publications formed part of a long list of materials requested by the Institute. Because CBEC has no funds for paying shipping charges, the Overseas Book Centre (OBC) in Ottawa paid for and arranged for the delivery of these materials.