

## News briefs

The Canadian Government has accepted an Israeli request that Canada undertake the protection of Israeli interests in Iran, following the break in diplomatic relations between the two Middle-East nations.

Higher food costs increased the cost of living during January to a 12-month rate of 8.9 per cent, compared with 8.4 per cent a month earlier.

Indonesia and Canada have signed a technical co-operation agreement worth \$2.77 million. The Canadian aid will be spent on hydro-power generating projects in Irian Jaya (West New Guinea) and Bengkulu, Sumatra, and steam power projects in north Sumatra.

Yvon Beaulne, former Canadian Ambassador to UNESCO and now Canada's Ambassador-designate to the Holy See, has been elected Chairman of the thirty-fifth Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Ambassador Beaulne, nominated for the position by France and seconded by Senegal, Poland, Brazil, and Pakistan, was elected by acclamation. Canada, which is serving a three-year term (1979-81) on the 32-member commission, now meeting in Geneva, was also a member from 1963-65 and 1976-78.

A \$920,000-program administered by National Health and Welfare will enable voluntary health agencies, non-profit organizations or other voluntary groups interested in administering short-term summer health projects to hire about 400 students across Canada this year. Allocation of funds and student positions are based on regional unemployment and population figures. In addition, \$780,000 has been made available through the department's promotion and prevention directorate to provide summer employment for approximately 265 students.

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Canada was second to Japan during 1978 as the leading supplier of manufactured goods to the U.S., according to a report published by the U.S. Commerce Department. The change represents a major shift in U.S. trading patterns, reducing Canada to second place for the first time.

A new nationwide network of cable television companies linked by satellite will be in operation next autumn, following an announcement by Communications Minister Jeanne Sauvé on February 27. The Federal Government will allow companies to own and run their own satellite earth stations, ending Telesat Canada's monopoly on ownership.

The Federal Government will spend \$113.5 million this summer on the Canada Summer Youth Employment Program, says Minister of Employment and Immigration Bud Cullen. Last year's program required \$94.8 million. The 1979 program is expected to place approximately 266,000 young Canadians in public and private sector jobs, of which 64,000 will be created directly by federal departments. This is an increase of some 12,000 jobs over those created last summer.

China has awarded a \$69-million contract to Control Data Canada Ltd. of Mississauga for 12 Canadian-designed Cyber 170 series computer systems to be used for geophysical exploration and oil and gas research.

Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed has announced the creation of a permanent endowment fund that he said should provide \$25 million to \$30 million annually for medical research. He hopes the program will attract researchers and scientists from other parts of Canada.

Via Rail has been given permission by the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario to serve drinks to railway passengers at their seats instead of in lounge cars, where there is often little space. The first route to receive the service will be the Toronto-Montreal run. Via Rail plans to discuss the issue with other provincial licencing bodies.

Under an agreement with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce will sell its branches on the island to a new bank called the Bank of Commerce Trinidad and Tobago Limited.

Air Canada has announced that until May 7 it will offer charter-class seats at prices 10 percent to 42 percent below regular charter fares.

Domtar Incorporated of Montreal plans to participate in a joint venture with Canadian Hunter Exploration Ltd. to acquire and develop natural gas reserves in the Deep Basin area of Alberta and British Columbia. The company will initially spend \$10 million to \$20 million.

This country's economic performance in the 1970s ranks among the top three industrialized nations, but Canadians still expect "that we should do better", G. Osbaldeston, secretary of the Board of Economic Development Ministers, says. He noted that the economy's strong points have been job creation, capital formation and manufacturing production.

Canada has agreed to reduce its oil imports voluntarily by 5 per cent or about 80,000 barrels a day, beginning April 1, as part of an International Energy Agency agreement, Energy Minister Gillespie has confirmed.

Placer Development will spend \$85 million to develop a gold and silver mine near Houston, British Columbia. Production "start-up" is scheduled for October 1980.

Canada will give Pakistan a \$10-million loan to finance the purchase of 30 locomotives, the Federal Government has announced.

After-tax profits for industrial corporations totalled \$13.58 billion in 1978, up 28.7 per cent from the 1974 figure, when profits last reached a peak, Statistics Canada reports. The average wage for all industries in 1978 was \$267 a week, up 50 per cent from the 1974 level.

The Ontario government has announced plans to provide jobs for more than 13,500 young people this summer through a \$19-million program called Ontario Experience '79.

Consumer credit outstanding at the end of 1978 totalled \$35.76 billion, up 14.8 per cent from \$31.16 billion reported a year earlier, Statistics Canada reports.

Canada has become the world's largest fish exporter, with value rising in 1978 to \$1.1 billion, up more than \$300 million from 1977, D. Tansley, deputy minister of the federal Department of Fisheries, has told the Fisheries Association of British Columbia.

Owing to a six-month delay in the proposed construction of a \$4.7-billion oil sands plant at Cold Lake, Alberta, oil will not begin to flow until the middle of 1986 at least, say officials of Esso Resources Canada Ltd.