

Cuban aircraft at Gander — Minister comments

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen confirmed on January 30 that Canadian authorities were aware that two non-scheduled flights of Cubana Airlines, one *en route* to Guinea Bissau and one from Brazzaville, landed at Gander, Newfoundland, on January 13 and 14. Under the Convention on International Civil Aviation, any civil aircraft of any signatory country engaged in non-scheduled civil aviation flights may make technical stops at Gander.

Mr. MacEachen said that because these flights were to Guinea Bissau and from Brazzaville, Canadian authorities impressed upon the Cuban authorities on January 21 that their landing privileges in Gander were subject to the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Convention. "If flights of any country using Gander are thought to be violating the provisions of the Convention, we shall invoke our right to inspect the aircraft in question," said Mr. MacEachen.

"This matter was raised with Canadian authorities by United States officials on January 23. No formal representations were made. As the record shows, Canada had taken action before the matter was raised by U.S. officials, and those officials were so informed," the Minister concluded.

Development research projects

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is to support the efforts of research scientists to improve the type of shelterbelts of trees being planted in northern Nigeria and several parts of Egypt, to hold back the desert and protect — and even reclaim — arable land for farming.

In Nigeria, the Federal Department of Forest Research will carry out trials on about one dozen different tree species in various rainfed soils, to select the most appropriate species and determine the best planting and cultural methods for shelterbelts, and to assess the benefits these windbreaks bring to farmers growing food crops.

In Egypt, a group of scientists from the Department of Forestry at Alex-

andria University are starting a breeding program to improve the species of casuarina tree used for shelterbelt and woodlot plantations. As well as breeding for resistance to drought and wind, they will be trying to develop the quality of the wood for use in industry.

IDRC President, Dr. W. David Hopper, announced a grant of \$270,000 last month to support the research in Nigeria's northern states, and a further grant of \$134,400 to support the casuarina breeding program in Egypt. The host institutions will be contributing the equivalent of \$423,600 to the two projects.

Korea

Dr. Hopper also announced support for two studies in Korea to evaluate the complementary schemes of industrial parks to concentrate urban growth and the New Village Movement to stimulate rural development.

A grant of \$66,000 is for the Graduate School of Public Administration at Seoul National University to study the results of development projects in a sample 360 villages that have been involved in the New Village Movement (Saemaul Undong), and to evaluate the effectiveness of government inputs in bringing about rural change.

Another grant of \$80,000 is for the Asiatic Research Center of Korea University to assess the experience of the growth-poles approach in the Ulsan-Masan region where industrial parks were begun during the 1960s, and to draw lessons from this assessment which can be applied in preparing a regional development strategy for the Chonju region.

The two Korean institutions are contributing the equivalent of \$57,589.

Consumer prices spiral slows

The consumer price index for Canada (1971=100) edged up 0.1 per cent to 144.3 in December from 144.1 in November, its smallest month-to-month rise since October 1972. This slowing of the rate of increase in the all-items index was largely due to a 0.7 per cent decline in the level of food prices. The housing component, which moved up by 0.9 per cent from the preceding month, was mainly responsible for the latest over-all advance, with an in-

crease in the clothing index contributing to a lesser extent. In contrast to the decline in the food index, the index for all items excluding food increased 0.5 per cent.

Because of the deceleration of price rises at year-end, the index stood 9.5 percent above its December 1974 level, the first occasion in nearly two years that any 12-month change in the CPI has registered less than 10 per cent. Comparisons of CPI changes between corresponding months of 1974 and 1975, as well as the annual average change between 1974 and 1975 amounting to 10.8 per cent, are shown below.

Consumer price index (1971 = 100)			
Month	1974	1975	Change (%)
January	118.1	132.4	12.1
February	119.3	133.4	11.8
March	120.5	134.1	11.3
April	121.4	134.8	11.0
May	123.4	135.9	10.1
June	125.0	137.9	10.3
July	125.9	139.8	11.0
August	127.1	141.2	11.1
September	127.9	141.5	10.6
October	129.1	142.8	10.6
November	130.5	144.1	10.4
December	131.8	144.3	9.5
Annual average	125.0	138.5	10.8

Decrease in immigration

According to a statement from the Department of Manpower and Immigration on January 22, stricter regulations led to a 10.2 per cent drop in immigration to Canada during the first nine months of 1975, compared to immigration for the same period in 1974.

From January to the end of September last year, 149,457 immigrants arrived — a decrease from 166,401 during those months a year earlier.

Immigration Minister Robert Andras said that regulation changes in 1974, which attempted to match more closely the number of immigrants with available jobs, were having an increasingly noticeable effect.

In another statement, Mr. Andras said that visitors to Canada from Lebanon would not be asked to return to that country under the present circumstances.