

News briefs

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has appointed J. Alan Beesley, as Canada's Ambassador to the Law of the Sea Conference in New York. In 1973 Mr. Beesley was appointed special adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the Law of the Sea as well as deputy head of Canada's Law of the Sea delegation. He has played an active role in the Law of the Sea negotiations since their inception.

Jeanne Mayo has been named the new president of MATCH International Centre. Mayo succeeds Norma Walmsley, who helped found the Ottawa-based international aid organization in 1976. The organization, partially funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, tries to match the needs and resources of women in Canada and the Third World.

A \$6.6 million fisheries patrol vessel now under construction in Vancouver, British Columbia, is to be named the *James Sinclair* in honour of the former federal fisheries minister from British Columbia. The new vessel, which is of all-aluminum construction, is scheduled to be launched in March or April 1981, and will be used for patrolling Canada's 200-mile fishing zone off the Pacific coast.

The criminal homicide rate in Canada dropped sharply in 1979 for the third consecutive year since Parliament abolished the death penalty in 1976. Statistics Canada said the rate, including murder, manslaughter and infanticide, fell 6.5 per cent last year. The federal agency reported 579 homicide incidents last year compared with 616 in 1978 and 637 in 1977. There were 631 victims.

Charles Geoffrey Edge has been appointed Chairman of the National Energy Board by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. Mr. Edge was appointed a member of the National Energy Board in January of

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This unusual three-dimensional advertisement floats near the expressway in Edmonton. A continuous supply of air keeps the billboard aloft.

1971, and has been the Vice-Chairman of the Board since February 1980.

The **Export Development Corporation** (EDC) has announced the conclusion of a \$4.3-million (U.S.) financing agreement to support the sale of a radio-communication system by Interimco International Incorporated of Ottawa, to Roberts Flight Information Region (Roberts FIR) of Africa. Roberts FIR is an organization created by the Republics of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

The total number of requests made by Canadians for access to personal information held by federal departments declined sharply last year, according to a report recently released by Donald Johnston, President of the Treasury Board. The report on operation of part IV of the Canadian Human Rights Act for the period April 1, 1979 to March 31, 1980 shows that 6,636 new requests for access to personal information were received compared with 13,081 the previous year.

Environment Minister John Roberts has announced that the federal government will provide \$250,000 to fund 22 water-related environmental research projects at 14 Canadian universities. A total of almost \$11 million in research funds has been awarded since 1970. The projects selected this year address problems related to acid rain, toxic substances, hydraulics of water systems, subsurface contamination, snow and ice, and social and economic concerns.

Brascan Limited of Toronto has agreed to buy from Patino NV of the Netherlands its 96 per cent interest in Companhia Estanifera do Brasil (Cesbra) for \$32.5 million (U.S.). Cesbra operates a tin smelter near Rio de Janeiro and mines tin on properties adjoining those held by Brascan in the federal territory of Rondonia in northwestern Brazil. In addition, Cesbra is prospecting for other minerals in Brazil.

Health and Welfare Minister Monique Bégin has announced that projects involving 141 senior citizens groups across Canada will receive federal contributions totalling \$988,654. A total of 23,049 participants are directly involved. The funds are made available through the department's New Horizons program.

Bombardier Inc. of Montreal has announced a three-year, \$42-million investment program involving its three manufacturing divisions. Bombardier president Louis Hollander said the program will enable the company's rail and diesel, recreation vehicle and mass transit divisions to get a better jump on their markets.

Jean Gordon of Vancouver recently captured the women's World Cup of ten-pin bowling held in Jakarta by defeating West German Hannelore Hopflitschek by 45 pins in the three-game final. The victory gave Canada the women's championship for the third time since its inception in 1972.