

### Mr. Jamieson to visit Latin America

The latest step in Canada's policy of strengthening relations with the countries of Latin America is the forthcoming visit of Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson to Brazil, Peru and Colombia.

Mr. Jamieson will be in Brazil from January 10 to 17 at the invitation of Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira; in Peru from January 17 to 23 at the invitation of Foreign Minister José de la Puente; and in Colombia from January 23 to 26 at the invitation of Foreign Minister Indalecio Lievano.

Canada's External Affairs Minister will lead a delegation composed of senior representatives of various Government departments and agencies with interests in Latin America. It will also include two representatives of the Canadian Association for Latin America and, for the visit to Brazil, two representatives of the Canada-Brazil Chamber of Commerce.

### Culinary Olympics — Canada shines

Canada placed second to Switzerland in national team standings at the XIV World Culinary Olympics in Frankfurt, West Germany in October. France and the United States tied for third place.

In all, Team Canada chefs won 30 gold and two silver medals. They competed against teams of chefs from 20 countries during the eight-day event, which is held every four years.

Alberta prime rib of beef, Arctic char, breast of Canadian duckling, roast boned and stuffed lamb from Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, were among the Canadian gold-medal winning hot dishes. There were six major recipe categories: entrées, hot dinners and cold dinners, buffets, pastries and desserts.

Members of the National Team were Hans J. Bueschkens of Windsor Raceway Ltd., Ontario, Tony Roldan of the Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto, Hubert Scheck of the Inn of the Sea, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Marcel Kretz, Hôtel la Sapinière, Val David, Quebec, and Robert Vercluyen of the CP Palliser Hotel, Calgary, Alberta. There was also an Eastern Regional Team, a Central Regional Team, a Western Regional Team and a Support Team.

### Mothers-to-be beware of the cat bug

To avoid the possibility of contracting a common infection that could cause mental and physical retardation to newborn children, pregnant women should keep away from cats and not eat rare meat, two University of Victoria scientists warn.

The infection, called toxoplasmosis, is caused by a microbe commonly carried by cats and found in rare meat, which has been ignored medically in North America mainly because of a lack of information, according to Dr. K.A. Karim, an immunologist studying the disease in association with Dr. Trevor Trust, chairman of the Bacteriology and Biochemistry Department.

Karim says if a fetus is infected it will probably show signs of either brain damage, psycho-motor retardation, epilepsy or eye and ear problems a few weeks or months after birth. Contrary to medical practice now, "pregnant women should be tested for toxoplasmosis as a matter of routine in their general prenatal checkups".

### 'Flu similarity

The problem of detecting the disease in an adult is that it has symptoms similar to 'flu. If it is a mild infection, the symptoms are a fever and lethargy, which last a few days, and if it is an acute infection, a fever along with swollen glands for about ten days.

Clinically, the infection cannot be distinguished from 'flu or glandular fevers, but it can be determined

through laboratory blood tests.

Karim stressed the disease had only serious consequences for pregnant women, and that once an adult or child had contracted it they were immune from it for the rest of their lives.

By the methods he has developed, Karim says he can tell whether and how long ago a person had the disease. If tested, a child-bearing woman can also be assured she is immune from the infection if she had it before pregnancy.

He adds that if a woman has contracted it during pregnancy there is a good chance she can be treated successfully to minimize the possibility of damage to the fetus.

### Cat little affected

Karim explains that since a cat is a "natural host" for this microbe, the animal is not affected adversely by it.

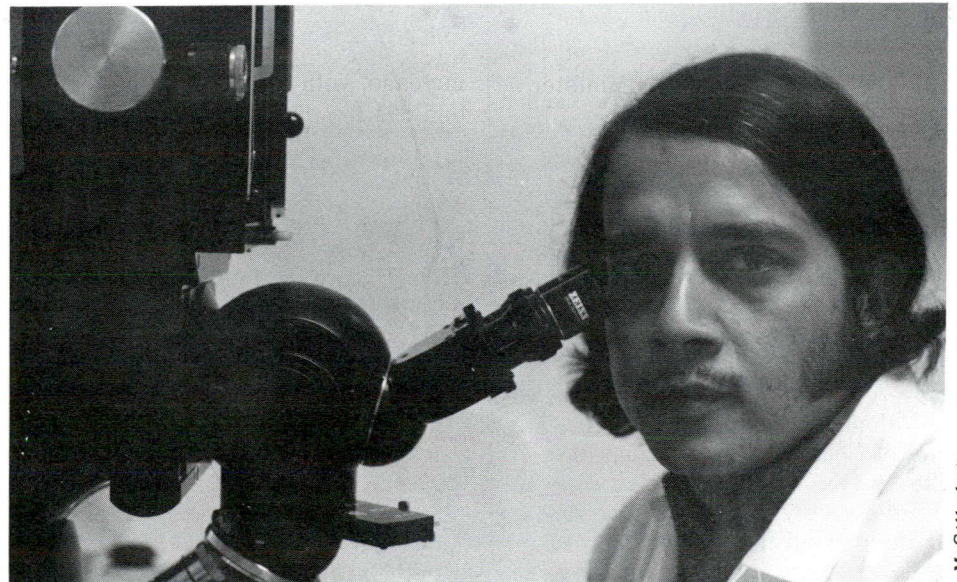
But he warned that as clean as cats are in their habits any handling of them could easily transmit the infection.

"The husband of a pregnant woman, or other members of the household, could transmit the infection to her if they have come in contact with an infected cat."

Karim said that to be on the safe side no cats should be kept around the house of a pregnant woman, unless she had been assured from tests that she is immune from toxoplasmosis.

The organism is found in cat stools, and can end up on the cat's fur after defecation.

Karim and Trust are transmitting their findings to local hospitals.



Karim points out menace ignored medically in North America