

Japanese External Economic Affairs Minister visits Canada

Japanese Minister of State for External Economic Affairs Nobuhiko Ushiba, on a short visit to Ottawa on May 5, called on Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. He also attended a working luncheon given by Mr. Jamieson at which the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Allan MacEachen were present.

The purpose of Mr. Ushiba's visit was to exchange views on the forthcoming Bonn Summit and on the current state of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva. He also briefed Canadian ministers on the outcome of Prime Minister Fukuda's visit to Washington, May 2 to 3.

Mr. Ushiba assured Canadian leaders that Canada's growing trade with Japan, which exceeded \$2.5 billion in exports in 1977, would not be undermined by any Japanese moves to reduce that country's massive trade surpluses with the U.S.A. and the European Community.



(Left to right) Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, Japanese Ambassador to Canada Yasuhiko Nara, Minister for External Economic Affairs Nobuhiko Ushiba and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau confer in Ottawa on May 5.

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Argentinian refugees welcome

A Government program to admit 100 Argentine political prisoners and their families into Canada as refugees was announced May 16 by Immigration Minister Bud Cullen.

He said Canadian representatives would be sent into Argentine prisons to interview possible refugees. There are an estimated 8,000 political prisoners in Argentina, which has been ruled by a military junta since March 1976.

The federal Cabinet approved the program after more than a year of requests for humanitarian action from the United Nations, Members of Parliament, church groups, Amnesty International and other organizations and individuals.

He said priority would be given to prisoners with relatives in Canada and to individuals who are offered sponsorship by Canadian companies or groups of five or more adults here pledging financial assistance to a refugee for a year.

The Argentine Government indicated only recently that it would co-operate with Canadians going into the prisons. Ottawa has had a similar program in Chile under which 115 political prisoners and their 234 dependants have entered Canada.

Progress report following conference of First Ministers

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau wrote to the provincial first ministers on April 10 to report on the progress which the Federal Government had made towards fulfilment of the commitments undertaken at the First Ministers' Conference in February. The Prime Minister informed his colleagues that:

- a formal request had been put to the Economic Council of Canada for it to analyze price and cost developments for a limited post-control period, in co-operation with provincial governments;
- work was under way to establish a formal system for the exchange of information between the federal and provincial governments on compensation for public employees;
- the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce had invited his provincial counterparts (along with leaders from business, labour and academic fields) to participate in the selection of 23 working groups attempting to improve economic performance of Canada's manufacturing, construction and tourist industries;
- on multilateral trade negotiations, the Federal Government had begun a new round of consultations with the provinces on those aspects of foreign offers of parti-

- cular interest to individual provinces;
- the nature of federal participation in the "Buy Canadian" campaign was under study;
- the Minister of State for Science and Technology had begun to arrange for early federal-provincial discussions about the need for a substantial increase in industrial research and development in Canada;
- the Federal Government had taken action to advance the energy capital projects announced in February, particularly the Gull Island hydro project on the Lower Churchill River, tidal power development, certain energy projects in the West, and the northern pipeline;
- much joint work was under way towards development of agreements on such issues as federal-provincial harmonization of stabilization programs in the agricultural industry;
- the Prime Minister would propose an Atlantic Fisheries Ministers' Committee;
- a committee had examined a proposal for "global" funding of housing programs and reported to the federal and provincial ministers responsible; and
- the Minister of Employment and Im-

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