

## Nairobi hosts University of New Brunswick graduation ceremonies

A Canadian university transported its convocation — caps, gowns and even parchment degrees — to Nairobi in March and put on one of the most unusual ceremonies in Kenyan or Canadian history, writes James Ferrabee in the University of New Brunswick's *Perspectives*.

A special convocation of the University of New Brunswick was re-constructed under the equatorial sun on the campus of a Canadian-aided technical college, that combined African traditional dancing with the skirl of bagpipes, and academic solemnity.

During the two-hour ceremony, Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi received an honorary science degree from UNB and bachelor of education degrees were conferred on 30 Kenyan students who had completed their studies at the Maritime university in the past few years.

"It is very unusual for any university students in the world to graduate along with their own head of state," UNB's president and vice-chancellor John Anderson told about 350 persons, including most of the Kenyan Cabinet, at the graduating ceremony.

Anderson, who, with UNB's President Emeritus Dr. Colin B. Mackay, presided at the convocation, perhaps understated the uniqueness of the gathering.

### President honoured

It was the first time Moi, who succeeded to the Kenyan presidency last August after the death of Kenya's first president Jomo Kenyatta, had received a degree from a foreign university.

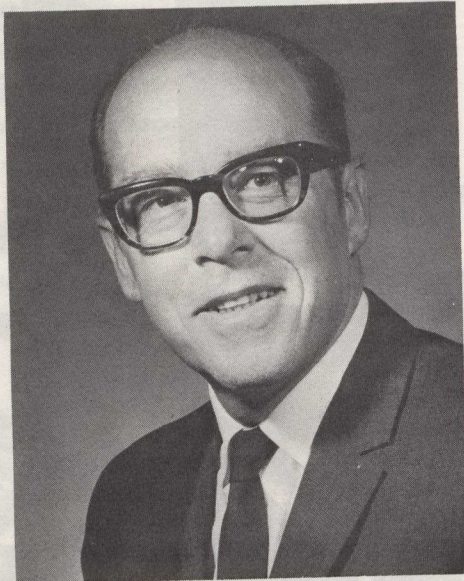
It was also the first time that UNB, founded nearly 200 years ago, had conducted a convocation outside the province, much less in a country, 7,000 miles away on another continent.

The reason for the convocation, which preceded the official opening of the Kenya Technical Teachers' College, a \$21 million Canadian-aid project, was that the University of New Brunswick is providing the technical and academic training for the institution.

Between now and 1983, UNB will take in 90 Kenyan students who will eventually provide the faculty for the KTTC.

The bulk of the Canadian-aid is being used to train the Kenyans in Canada.

The college was completed last year and has a capacity for 700 students, in-



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*Geoffrey Bruce, Canadian High Commissioner in Kenya (above), read a message from Prime Minister Trudeau at UNB's special convocation ceremonies in Nairobi.*

cluding 500 living on the campus. It is the largest aid project Canada has mounted in Kenya to date, and one of the largest single projects of Canadian aid undertaken in Africa.

President Moi called it a "significant stage" in the development of technical education in that country of 14 million.

He thanked the Canadian Government and the Canadian people and said the college "will stand as a symbol of the mutual friendship that exists between Kenya and Canada".

Geoffrey Bruce, Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya, who read a special message from Prime Minister Trudeau to the convocation, called the gathering a "unique" occasion in the history of both countries.

### The consumer price index

The All-items Consumer Price Index for Canada (1971=100) increased by 0.9 per cent from 182.7 in January to 184.4 in February. As a result, the rise from February 1978 to February 1979 stood at 9.2 per cent up from the 8.9 per cent registered in the previous 12 months. Higher food prices were again a significant factor in the latest over-all monthly CPI rise, having been responsible for about

one-half of the increase. Food prices advanced by 2.5 per cent from January to February, up from the 1.9 per cent registered in the previous month, while the index for all items excluding food rose by 0.5 per cent, unchanged from the increase observed in the previous month.

Increased shelter charges for both rented and owned accommodation and higher prices for new cars were major contributing factors to the 0.5 percent increase in the index for all items excluding food. Other notable factors included higher prices for many clothing items, tobacco products, magazines and, in several cities, for newspapers, electricity and automobile insurance premiums. Higher prices were also recorded for both men's haircuts and women's hairdressing services as well as for prescribed medicines. From February 1978 to February 1979, the index for all items excluding food advanced by 6.8 per cent.

From February 1978 to February 1979, the price level for goods advanced by 11.2 per cent while that for services rose by 6 per cent.

### City highlights

From January to February, consumer prices rose in all 15 cities for which CPIs are produced. Advances ranged from 0.6 per cent in Charlottetown/Summerside, Prince Edward Island, to 1.6 per cent in Edmonton, Alberta. In seven of the 15 cities, consumer prices rose in excess of 1 per cent. The differing rates of price increases for food, ranging from 1.3 per cent in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, to 3.9 per cent in Edmonton, were the major factor contributing to this variation in city retail price movements.

### All in pun

The Magazine Association of Canada has formed a body called the International Save-the-Pun Foundation. Its purpose is to conduct an annual competition for the ten best -stressed puns.

John S. Crosbie, president of the Association, hopes the competition will enable more people to see the dawn of a new error in punning. A prizewinner in the 1978 awards was a description of a biography of a popular singer as being...a paperback by three of his closet companions. Entries should be directed to Mr. Crosbie at Box 5040, Toronto, M5W 1N4, Ontario, Canada.