

Situation in West Bank and Gaza

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan said in a statement March 25 that Canada deplored the sharp increase in tension that had developed recently in the West Bank and Gaza leading to the tragic loss of life, injuries and severe disruption in normal daily activity.

The Canadian government is concerned, he said, about the dismissal of the elected mayors of three towns and the prolonged closing of Bir Zeit University, as well as the continuing demonstrations and general strikes. In these tense circumstances, he counselled all involved to exercise restraint and avoid provocation and violence. If not checked, such violence could not only create further obstacles to the success of the autonomy negotiations but could also have far-reaching consequences for stability and peace in the region.

Dr. MacGuigan said the situation once again pointed to the need for a negotiated resolution of the dispute, withdrawal of Israel from territories occupied in 1967, peace and secure borders for all states in the area and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Target increased for international tourism marketplace

Rendez-vous Canada, the international tourism marketplace, to be held in Calgary, Alberta this May is expected to result in \$75-million in business transactions.

The \$75-million target was based on the successful results of the 1981 marketplace in Halifax, Nova Scotia which yielded more than \$63 million in tourism sales for Canada. The success of the 1981 Rendez-vous Canada led to the expansion of this year's event allowing for additional buyers and sellers.

Rendez-vous Canada is sponsored annually by the federal Office of Tourism, in co-operation with the provinces and territories, the Canadian tourism industry and the associations which represent it.

In Halifax, Rendez-vous Canada 1981 was attended by more than 800 delegates. Selling organizations, occupying 225 booths, totalled 304 and buying organizations totalled 206, including 96 from the United States and 110 from 23 overseas countries. This year organizers will be able to accommodate 1 000 delegates with space for 250 booths.

Canada and France study economic co-operation



French Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Trade Michel Jobert (centre) responds to a question at a press conference held in Ottawa. He is flanked by Canadian Minister of Industry and Commerce Herb Gray (left) and Minister of State (External Relations) Pierre De Bané (left).

The fourth ministerial meeting of the France-Canada Economic Commission took place last month in Ottawa.

The Canadian delegation was under the joint chairmanship of Minister of Industry and Commerce Herb Gray and Minister of State (External Relations) Pierre De Bané, with the participation of Minister of State (International Trade) Ed Lumley.

The French delegation was headed by Minister of State and Minister for Foreign Trade Michel Jobert. In addition to attending the economic commission meeting, the French minister met with Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed, Ontario Premier William Davis and Quebec Premier René Lévesque. Mr. Jobert held talks with other ministers in Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, as well as with business representatives of those provinces.

Economic development

During their talks, the commission commented on the current situation and prospects for economic development in their respective countries and in bilateral trade. They also outlined their respective economic policies and changes that have taken place since the last meeting of the commission in October 1980, particularly with regard to industrial development objectives and programs.

In terms of international trade, France is Canada's eighth most important partner after the United States, Japan, Britain, Venezuela, the Federal Republic of Germany, Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union. In 1981, Canadian exports to France dropped by 2.3 per cent to \$973.3 million while imports from France increased by 10.2 per cent to \$848.3 million.

With respect to investment, Canadian firms such as McCain and Mitel have built major plants in France. Among French investments in Canada, Alsthom Atlantique recently made a substantial investment in Marine Industrie of Sorel, Quebec, while Regie Renault has major interests in American Motors Corporation of Canada.

The France-Canada Economic Commission also reviewed questions such as the Arctic Pilot Project, Canada's possible participation in the Airbus A320 project, the development of a helicopter industry in Canada, the establishment of Pechiney Ugine Kuhlman and the exchange of missions to study possibilities for co-operation in industrial sectors such as industrial robotics, extraction equipment, coal processing and the development of timber frame construction in France, as well as possibilities for co-operation in the field of rail and urban transport.