

Japanese Autos

Asian carmakers should be given a tax break to compensate for their lack of protection under free trade, according to a Japanese auto official. "My manufacturers should have been able to participate in the Auto Pact. They are also building cars in Canada. They can meet Auto Pact requirements and they are also building cars in the US," Bob Salvian, President of the Japanese Auto Dealers' Association, was reported saying in the *Toronto Sun* on December 16. He added, "I think it's unfair. The Government held the carrot out and we built a plant [in Alliston]...and now we are not able to participate in the Auto Pact. Under the free trade deal, Canada will eliminate duty-relief schemes which it has used to entice Asian carmakers to invest in Canada. Canada's tariff on overseas auto parts is 9.2 percent. The comparable US tariff is 2.2 percent." According to the *Toronto Sun*, Salivan, who owns a Honda dealership, wanted 7 percent duty-reduction compensation because, he said, it costs 7 percent more to build cars in Canada because Asian carmakers were excluded from the benefits of the Auto Pact.

Jordan

Detention of Canadian

A Toronto man wanted in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates on theft charges was arrested while trying to enter Jordan in October and was still not free to leave the country, even though a court had ruled against extraditing him to Abu Dhabi. A court in Amman, the Jordanian capital, refused on Christmas eve to extradite Jalal Jabouri, 56, a Canadian citizen and native of Iraq. The court ruled that the conditions for his extradition did not exist. The Canadian embassy in Amman was trying to determine the conditions of the court ruling to see whether he had to remain in Jordan (*Toronto Star*, December 30).

Oil

The resource-scarce Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan welcomed a Canadian oil team which was to start collecting seismic data for Jordan in January in a joint search for oil near the Iraqi border. Kamal Jureisat, Director of Jordan's Natural Resources Authority, said a crew provided by Petro-Canada International was to operate in the Rishah area of north eastern Jordan. The Corporation is a subsidiary of federally-owned Petro-Canada. Mr. Jureisat hoped the project would prompt Canadian oil companies to enter production-sharing deals like those Jordan had signed with such companies as Amoco of Chicago and Petrofina SA of Belgium (*Globe & Mail*, December 14).

Korea

Auto Trade

The Director of Investigations was reported challenging, under the Federal Competition Act, the federal government's decision of last November to impose an average 35 percent preliminary anti-dumping duty on all Hyundai

Motor Company cars shipped to Canada from South Korea. The *Globe & Mail* reported on January 14 that, in the Director's view, Hyundai exerted a positive influence in maintaining competition in the Canadian automobile industry and it was important to ensure that such competitive influence was not nullified by the unnecessary or inappropriate application of trade restrictions. The submission was made to the Canadian Import Tribunal, a branch of the federal Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Lebanon

Palestinian Camps

The tragedy of Palestinian camps was brought closer to home with a story about a Canadian surgeon, Chris Giannou, 38, who had performed more than 500 operations in besieged Palestinian camps. Dr. Giannou had spent the last twenty-seven months operating the hospital at the Chatilla Refugee camp and was given a tearful farewell by the 3,500 Palestinian refugees in the camps. He told them, "we experienced the siege together, we died a bit together, now it is time to go on" (*The Gazette*, January 28).

Libya

A Canadian woman, Viola Sayegh, was still awaiting word on when she would be released from Libya where her passport had been seized more than two months ago. She said she had been given no reason for the delay. Security officers had confiscated her passport on November 7 and have refused to return it or to provide an exit visa. Canada had sent one of its diplomats from Rome to Libya in December to assist the woman (*Toronto Star*, January 11).

Canadian diplomats in Rome were reported in *Globe & Mail* on December 26 as saying that the Libyan authorities had given no reason for keeping Mrs. Sayegh in Tripoli.

Her husband is a co-director at Canint Co. Ltd., a construction firm that is involved in a dispute with the Libyan Army over a \$8.5 million contract to build a signals base.

Morocco

Sydney Steel Corporation of Nova Scotia was awarded a contract by the government of Morocco for the manufacture of 10,999 metric tons of steel rails. Sydney Steel has been active in Africa for close to thirty years and is working in more than eight African countries. (Canadian International Development Agency *Communiqué*, January 7).

Nicaragua

When Bill Blaikie (NDP, Winnipeg—Birds Hill) encouraged the Secretary of State for External Affairs "for once to get up and say Canada is opposed to continued aid to the Contras," Joe Clark responded that "that kind of