

## More fish for Poland

The Canadian government has offered Poland an allocation of an additional 8,000 tonnes of fish this year in recognition of that country's serious economic difficulties.

Poland has already been allocated approximately 12,000 tonnes of fish which may be caught on both the east and west coasts within Canada's 200-mile fisheries zone.

In making the announcement, Fisheries and Oceans Minister Roméo LeBlanc said that Canada and Poland have enjoyed "a long and friendly relationship in international fisheries matters".

The additional allocation consists of 1,000 tonnes of Atlantic coast redfish, 2,000 tonnes of Greenland halibut, 2,000 tonnes of cod off northern Labrador and 3,000 tonnes of Pacific hake.

## Canadian assistance for African refugee relief

Canada is providing \$1.66 million in assistance to refugees in five African countries.

The funds are to support the basic protection and relief activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Angola, Zaire, Cameroun, Ethiopia and Djibouti. Each of these countries is sheltering refugees from neighbouring strife-torn states. The burden of providing basic food, shelter and medical services for the influx of large numbers of destitute refugees is beyond the resources of these nations which are among the world's poorest.

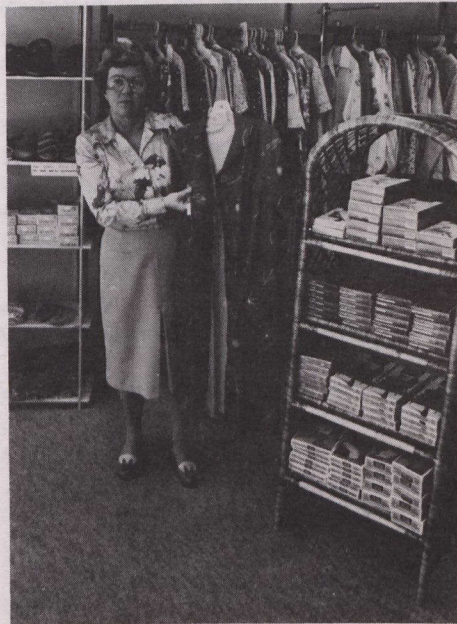
The grants are as follows:

- \$600,000 to Angola to help provide for an estimated 55,000 refugees from Namibia, Zaire and South Africa;
- \$500,000 to Zaire to help provide for an estimated 330,000 refugees from Angola, Burundi, Rwanda and Zambia;
- \$300,000 to Cameroun to help provide for an estimated 250,000 refugees from Chad;
- \$100,000 for Djibouti to help provide for an estimated 42,000 refugees from the neighbouring Ogaden region of Ethiopia; and
- \$160,000 to Ethiopia to assist the UNHCR in its attempts to provide basic services for Ethiopians returning to their homeland. Many had fled to neighbouring countries during the recent civil strife in Ethiopia but now are returning home.

## Store for handicapped opens

An Ottawa woman has recently opened a store that is geared to the special needs of the handicapped.

The store has a wide range of aids, from bathroom bars to make it easier to get in and out of a tub, or shower seats for people who find it impossible to get out of a tub if they sit right down in it, to the latest in remote control equipment which enables the immobile to switch on lamps and radios without getting up.



*Anne Snyder displays functional clothes available from her recently-opened store for handicapped persons.*

"People think of a wheelchair as just a wheelchair," says owner and former occupational therapist Anne Snyder. "So you see a little old lady in one much too large for her and she can't sit straight. Or the arms will be too high, making the shoulders too elevated. A wheelchair should be bought with the individual in mind".

### Wheelchair accessories

Snyder has several wheelchairs in stock, six different types of wheelchair cushions, and totebags to attach to the handle grips.

Handi-House, features a number of household aids for people who for whatever reason may only have strength in one hand. There is a one-handed rolling pin, a one-handed flour sifter, left-handed scissors, and table scissors for cutting meat or other food with one hand.

The store also carries clothing for disabled, practical but stylish garments

from Comfort Clothing in Kingston in two lines, "one for people who dress themselves with difficulty and another for people who have to be dressed".

As Snyder points out, large armholes and raglan sleeves make the job much easier, and so do Velcro closings — surfaces which cling together but can be easily pulled apart — instead of buttons or zippers.

In time, Snyder hopes to show the clothing at fashion shows in institutions around the city.

Snyder intends at some point to have a service which will custom-make equipment for individuals for whom nothing standard will suit.

In the meantime, there are ball exercisers, orthopedic sandals, arch supports, canes and walkers and even a medical alert gadget to choose from. The latter will enable the user at home alone to wear a button-triggered transmitting device around the neck so that if he or she falls and cannot get up, a touch of the button will cause pre-selected phone numbers to be rung — perhaps the next door neighbour's — so help can be summoned.

## Joint acid rain research

American and Canadian environment officials are working on a joint research project designed to create a mutually acceptable method of measuring acid rain.

The project was begun by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Precipitation samples are being taken at six weather stations on either side of the Canada-U.S. border over a one-year period. Rainfall is being monitored at national weather stations in Canada at Kejimikujik, Nova Scotia; Mount Forest, Ontario; and Lethbridge, Alberta. In the United States, samples are being taken at stations in Caribou, Maine; Glacier National Park, Montana; and the University of Michigan Biological Station, Tellstone, Michigan.

Rain "buckets" are positioned outside the station and weather service employees send the samples weekly to a U.S. laboratory in Illinois and monthly to officials in Ottawa. The data derived from these samples is later compared. Before shipping the rain samples, the conductivity and acidity of the rainwater is tested. The acid content is measured using a pH scale ranging from 0-14 with seven being neutral. The lower the number is the greater the acidity.