

Co-operation with European Community on energy bus program

Canada and the European Community (EC) have agreed to collaborate in the continued development of the energy bus, a novel method to save energy. A memorandum of understanding, establishing the basis for this co-operative venture, was signed by Canada and the EC in Brussels on December 17.

A Canadian energy bus is currently touring several member states of the European Community, where Canadian experts are demonstrating the capabilities of the bus to representatives of governments, industrial associations, technical bodies and journalists.

The energy audit vehicle, popularly known as the "energy bus", is an original idea conceived and developed in Canada. The vehicle is a customized, recreational-type vehicle equipped with sophisticated instruments to measure and analyze energy consumption in industrial and commercial plants and to identify potential energy savings. It is operated in Canada by the federal and provincial governments, and accepted by Canadian industry as a means of improving energy-use efficiency, and reducing expenditure for fuel and electricity.

The energy bus is staffed by a team of professional engineers and technicians and is equipped with a computer, energy measuring instruments, demonstration equipment and video units.

The energy audit system has generated wide international interest. Following a demonstration for representatives of the European Community in Canada in June 1979, six member states have already indicated an interest in implementing a similar system modelled after the Canadian program. Several member states have begun working on their programs, and the Netherlands plans to have its system operational by early 1980.

The Canadian Government has offered to the Community the computer and data base programs of its energy audit system. In addition to making a bus available to visit European countries, Canada has offered to train the first bus crews from each member state that decides to implement the program. In the future, Canada/EC co-operation will be based on a permanent exchange of the information and software provided by the development of the Canadian and European bus systems.

Support of women's rights

Canada supported a Convention on the elimination of discrimination against women which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in New York, December 18, Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald, and David MacDonald, Minister responsible for Status of Women have announced.

One of the highlights of last year's General Assembly, the text of the Convention is the culmination of several years of efforts, collaboration and negotiation on the part of delegates of countries representing diverse cultures and civilizations. The Convention is considered to be a landmark on the road to equality of rights and responsibilities for women and men. It outlines objectives for governments to pursue in the political, social, economic and cultural fields to ensure the advancement of women.

The Canadian Government has indicated its commitment to the aims of the Convention, and considers it an instrument which could be of great interest to Canadian women. Because much of the subject matter covered by the Convention falls within provincial jurisdiction, the Government intends to consult with the provinces to examine the possibilities of Canada's becoming a party to the Convention.

New aid plan also helps Canadians

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has established a new program to assist Canadian consultants to obtain a fairer share of internationally-financed major capital investment projects in developing countries.

The Canadian Project Preparation Facility (CPPF) will provide funding up to \$250,000 to Canadian consulting companies to prepare pre-feasibility studies as a lead-in to major capital investment projects.

The new facility will provide funding for preparation when the proposed project, whether in the public or private sector, is in the formative stage and meets the developing country's own economic development priorities.

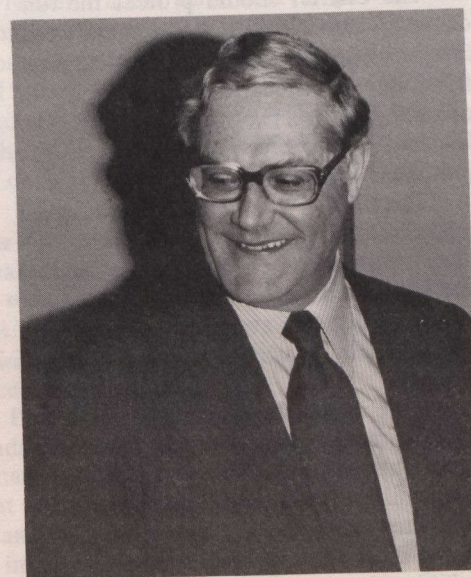
Projects eligible for CPPF funding must lie within an area of Canadian competence both in regard to the engineering aspects as well as the supply of material and equipment, and there must be reasonable indications that Canadian manufacturers and engineering firms will be able and likely to bid on and supply the resulting project on internationally competitive terms. The new facility is also applicable to projects which could be financed bilaterally, Martial Asselin, Minister of State responsible for CIDA said in announcing the project.

Canadian in observer group for Rhodesian elections

Gordon Fairweather, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission has been named the senior Canadian member of the Commonwealth group being formed to observe the February elections in Rhodesia, Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald has announced.

Mr. Fairweather is one of 11 Commonwealth representatives who will be in Rhodesia during most of the period leading up to the elections to be held on February 27-29.

The group will issue a report on the conduct of the elections to Commonwealth Heads of Government. The presence of Commonwealth observers was part of the agreement on Rhodesia reached last August in Lusaka at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, attended by Prime Minister Clark.



Gordon Fairweather