

## Indian women allowed to retain status

Three Canadian Indian bands have received exemptions from a section of the Indian Act which deprives Indian women and their children of their Indian status upon marriage to a non-Indian.

The historic step was taken at the initiative of the Indian bands of Nassett in British Columbia and Carcross and Carmacks in the Yukon Territory. Another 24 bands have requested similar exemption from this section of the Act and their applications are now being processed to meet legal requirements.

The exemptions follow an announcement a year ago by the federal government that, at the request of a band council, the government would suspend certain sections of the Indian Act that discriminated against Indian women who lose their status upon marriage to non-Indian men. Indian men who marry non-Indians are not subject to the same deprivation

of legal status as Indian women. They retain their Indian status and transmit this status to their non-Indian spouses and their children.

In future, women members of the Massett, Carcross and Carmacks Bands and their children will continue to be status Indians after marriage to non-Indians. However Indian women will not be able to transmit Indian status to their non-Indian spouse. The exemption will not apply to those Indian women of the three bands who have already lost their status because of marriage to non-Indians.

Indian Affairs Minister John Munro said that the actions being taken at the requests of the bands were only interim measures to relieve immediate problems of discrimination under the Indian Act. Long term solutions could only be found in revisions to the Act itself to which the government remains committed, he added.

## Moroccan foreign minister makes visit to Canada

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan and Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'Hamed Boucetta signed two co-operation agreements during the Moroccan Minister's visit to Canada, October 12-16.

Dr. MacGuigan and Mr. Boucetta signed a memorandum of understanding creating a bilateral commission to further Canada-Morocco co-operation while a second general co-operation agreement will assist in carrying out new projects. The first session of the bilateral com-

mission is expected to be held in Rabat before the end of this year. The two ministers also announced an agricultural program under which Canadian specialists would be sent to Morocco to work with Moroccan experts in a plan to augment that country's farm production.

In Ottawa, Mr. Boucetta was received by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and had talks with several other Cabinet ministers including Energy Minister Marc Lalonde, Industry Minister Herb Gray and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion Pierre

## Foundries sign agreement

The federal government and the Canadian Foundry Association have signed a national manpower planning agreement.

The agreement between the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and the association, which has a membership of about 99 foundries will benefit, in particular, many small- and medium-sized firms in the industry which employs some 30,000 Canadians.

The industry, with foundries in all provinces, provides a wide variety of ferrous and non-ferrous castings to practically all other industrial sectors, both in the domestic and export markets.

The agreement is part of a major national manpower planning initiative by the government, which has already resulted in agreements this year between Employment and Immigration Canada and associations representing the mining, coal, shipbuilding, and air industries.

De Bané. The minister also met with the Speaker of the Senate, Senator Jean Marchand, the Speaker of the House of Commons Jeanne Sauvé and Marcel Massé, president of the Canadian International Development Agency.

## Joint projects planned

Future co-operation between the two countries will focus mainly on industrial projects designed to set up joint Canada-Moroccan enterprises, on the extension of preferential credit to sustain high-development projects and on technical programs. Both ministers indicated that they would like to expand educational exchanges and increase cultural co-operation.

Mr. Boucetta stressed the importance of participation by Canadian companies in Moroccan development as outlined in that country's five-year plan. Dr. MacGuigan expressed Canada's desire to contribute to Moroccan efforts in this area.

The two ministers also discussed international questions such as the Middle East, Namibia, Western Sahara and La Francophonie.

Mr. Boucetta took the opportunity to travel to Montreal for the inauguration of the Moroccan consulate-general there. Dr. MacGuigan said he was pleased with the recent establishment of the consulate-general and added that it would serve to promote and strengthen relations between the two countries.



Mr. Boucetta (left) and Dr. MacGuigan (right) sign a co-operation agreement.