

gual jury. Mr. Basford said he believed all provinces would be capable of offering trials in both languages through changes in venue and special measures for empanelling juries with various language capabilities. He noted that even British Columbia had 100,000 bilingual persons.

Canada/Japan fisheries pact

Canadian and Japanese delegations meeting in Ottawa from March 28 to April 1, initialled the text of an agreement which, on approval by both governments, will set out the terms governing continued fishing by Japanese vessels under Canadian law in areas under Canadian fisheries jurisdiction, for resources surplus to Canadian requirements.

The agreement includes provisions for the determination by the Government of Canada of allotment for Japanese fishing vessels, the issuance of Canadian licences to these vessels and their compliance with the conservation measures established by Canada. The accord also refers to the special interest of Canada in fisheries resources in the area beyond and immediately adjacent to the Canadian 200-mile zone. It is the fifth agreement to do so since the extension of Canadian jurisdiction to 200 miles. Similar agreements have been concluded with Cuba, Romania, the German Democratic Republic and Bulgaria. It becomes the twelfth agreement dealing with foreign fishing in the Canadian fishing zone.

Beware hypertension — it's a killer

Hypertension, if undiagnosed and untreated, eventually will produce death or disability from a heart attack, stroke or kidney failure. The first two of these kill more North Americans than the other two leading causes of death combined — cancer and accidents.

When detected early enough, however, and properly treated, the patient's chances are very good, though frequently the treatment must continue for a long time, possibly for life.

Hypertension research at Memorial University of Newfoundland will be stepped up with the receipt of two recent awards: a \$215,000-grant from the Department of National Health and Welfare

to the medical faculty will be used for a three-year study on ways of improving health care to persons with high blood pressure; and Dr. G. Fodor, Professor of Epidemiology and head of the hypertension research team, has been given the National Health Scientist Award, which is given to a limited number of Canadians of outstanding ability and research competence.

Three-way plan

Physicians, nurses, paramedical workers and patients located in St. John's, Grand Falls, and Corner Brook, Newfoundland, will comprise a team, which will use a three-way approach in determining how hypertension can best be diagnosed and controlled.

The team will assess whether the public is being sufficiently alerted to the inherent dangers of hypertension through an accelerated education program to be initiated by the Canadian Heart Foundation; it will investigate whether the doctor to whom the patient first comes for diagnosis, is able to handle the present patient load, and the increased patient load generated by the Heart Foundation or other public education program.

It will also study whether the skills of other members of the health-care team could be more effectively used in all phases of hypertension control. This applies in particular to nurses, but also includes other para-professionals, such as technicians.

Depending on the outcome of such investigations any one or all of the present approaches to hypertension diagnosis and control may be discarded or modified greatly, a little, or not at all, Dr. Fodor said.

However, since the great percentage of hypertensives go undetected, and at least 50 per cent of those who are diagnosed eventually drop their treatment, it is unlikely that the present methods of detection and control will remain unchanged.

Undiagnosed condition

Over two million Canadians, or 10 per cent of the population, have hypertension, most of whom are undiagnosed. In Newfoundland the problem is even greater, the incidence being 15 per cent. (The reasons for this 50 per cent higher morbidity is being investigated by teams of researchers who are looking into environmental and other factors — such as soft drinking water, high salt intake, heredity, etc.)

The choice of treatment varies with the severity of the disease, the patient's response to pressure-lowering drugs and an apparent ability to stick with a special diet.

Treatment drop-outs

Dr. Fodor explained that lowering the blood pressure requires a great deal of attention, persistence and effort on the part of the patient and physician. Because undetected hypertension is an asymptomatic illness, that is, one with only vague symptoms of headache or feeling unwell, or no symptoms at all, and because medication frequently may have some unpleasant side effects, 50 per cent of all hypertensives drop out of treatment of their disease.

"This non-compliance of patients is presenting crucial health problems," Dr. Fodor said. "One of the very important aspects of this study will therefore be the improvement of the compliance rate of patients...to diagnose, control the hypertension, and then keep it under control. This may mean initiating a new system entirely."

Beef and veal import controls

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan and Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Jack Horner announced on March 30 that the Federal Government had set up an ongoing procedure to control imports of beef and veal.

"There has been a surplus of beef and veal on the world market since 1974. In the fall of 1976, the United States invoked quotas under its Meat Import Law and the Canadian Government set quotas on beef and veal imports. Now we are formally setting out the procedure we will use in future to prevent disruptions in our domestic market," said Mr. Horner.

The quotas will be set under the Export and Import Permits Act in relation to the average level of beef and veal imports between 1971 and 1975, adjusted for changes in domestic beef consumption since this base period.

"The trade in live cattle will not be affected by these import controls. Furthermore, the Canadian import controls complement the U.S. Meat Import Law and should help to preserve the normal beef and cattle trade between Canada and the U.S.," Mr. Whelan said. The procedure will be assessed after a three-year trial.