

High Commission marks centenary



Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan (left) accompanies Queen Elizabeth (centre), Prince Philip and Canadian High Commissioner Jean Casselman Wadds (second from left) and Mrs. MacGuigan (far left) at a display of Canadian history presented at a recent reception marking the one-hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Canadian High Commission in London.

International two-way TV systems showcase in Canada

North America's first major international videotex conference and exhibition will be held in Toronto from May 20-22, 1981, Minister of Communications Francis Fox has announced.

Videotex '81 will provide a showcase of two-way television systems that have generated intense interest around the world in the past year. More than 10,000 visitors are expected.

The conference, to be held in Toronto, will review videotex developments in Europe, the United States, Canada, Japan and South America. An international panel of more than 60 experts will report on and discuss the current business and consumer applications of videotex and its potential as a new mass market medium.

The associated exhibition at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds will show Britain's Prestel and Ceefax, France's Teletel and Antiope, Canada's Telidon,

private videotex and teletext systems, interactive cable TV, and related new equipment such as video disk and micro-computer-based terminals.

"It will be the first opportunity for North American business and government executives to compare all of the major two-way television systems in operation," said Mr. Fox.

Videotex '81 is being sponsored by Infomart, Canada's first major videotex service company, and Online Conference Limited of London.

To ensure a broad-based and internationally representative conference, the organizers are drawing together a program committee comprising videotex experts from Canada, the United States, Britain and Europe. Participants represent the French Telematique, British Prestel and Canadian Telidon groups, the U.S. Information Industry Association, and the electronics, cable TV and publishing industries.

(For further details contact Infomart, 122 St. Patrick St., 3rd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5T 2X8.)

Offenders treaty signed with Peru

Canada and Peru recently exchanged instruments of ratification in Ottawa on the Treaty on the Transfer of Inmates and Supervision of Persons under Sentence which was signed in Lima on April 22.

The protocol of exchange was signed on behalf of Canada and the Secretary of State for External Affairs by Minister of National Defence Gilles Lamontagne and on behalf of Peru by the Peruvian Ambassador to Canada Eduardo Valdez. The treaty comes into force on the date on which instruments of ratification were exchanged.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General, in conjunction with the Department of External Affairs, is responsible for negotiating these treaties with other countries and implementing their provisions in Canada.

Under the treaty, nationals who apply to transfer would serve their sentences in their country of citizenship. No transfer would be initiated without the consent of the individual concerned and without appeal procedures first being completed in the sentencing country. Canadian and Peruvian officials are co-operating to implement the transfer of offenders as soon as possible.

Commonwealth meeting

A Canadian delegation attended the eighth Commonwealth Education Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, August 5-13.

The theme of the conference was "Education and the Development of Human Resources". Its objectives were to review present schemes of Commonwealth co-operation in education, focus attention on major educational trends and problems, and identify means by which further Commonwealth co-operation might benefit member countries. Among the subjects discussed were the future of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, the development of technical, scientific and mathematical education and the role of non-formal education.

The first four days of the conference focused mainly on expert level discussion of technical matters. The second part of the conference consisted of a plenary session at the ministerial level.

At the conference Canada offered to provide ten Commonwealth scholarships to Zimbabwe. The offer follows that country's recent admission to the Commonwealth. Canada has been a major participant in the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan since its establishment in 1960. The plan calls for a total of 1,500 scholarships exchanged each year among Commonwealth countries. Within this total, Canada offers up to 300 scholarships, mainly to developing countries.

Maritime conference in Montreal

The Canadian Maritime Law Association will host the thirty-second conference of the Comité Maritime International (CMI) to be held in Montreal May 24-29, 1981. It will be the first time Canada has hosted the conference.

More than 400 delegates from the 32 maritime nations, which constitute the CMI, are expected to attend the meeting. The Comité Maritime International, which is based in Antwerp, is concerned with unifying maritime law.

The main topic of discussion during the meeting in Montreal will be the revision of the 1910 Salvage Convention, a topic which requires urgent updating with the advent of large-scale tanker traffic and the related danger to the environment.