

UN contribution announced

The Canadian government has pledged contributions to the three major funds of the United Nations Development System, at the UN Pledging Conference for Operational Activities on Development in New York.

In 1982-83, the Canadian government will contribute \$49 million to the United Nations Development Programs (UNDP), \$11 million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and \$8.5 million to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). These contributions represent increases of approximately 10 per cent over the 1981-82 contributions and are subject to approval by the Canadian Parliament.

The pledges to these programs represent Canada's continued support for the central programs of the UN Development System as the appropriate vehicles for development activities within the United Nations.

King of Jordan visits

King Hussein of Jordan, accompanied by Queen Noor, visited Canada, November 12-15, at the invitation of Governor General Edward Schreyer.

During his visit, the King met with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau to discuss the Palestinian situation and other Middle East issues. The Prime Minister told King



Prime Minister Trudeau (right) shakes hands with King Hussein.

Hussein that Canada would open an embassy in Amman, Jordan next year, which he said would serve to strengthen relations between the two countries. Jordan has had an embassy in Canada for the past six years. Canada's ambassador in Lebanon is at present accredited to Jordan.

Upon his arrival in Ottawa, King Hussein was met by Governor General Schreyer and later met Bank of Canada Governor Gerald Bouey, Supreme Court Chief Justice Bora Laskin and Energy Minister Marc Lalonde. It was the King's third visit to Canada in seven years.

Priority for polish visas

Special measures to allow Polish families to join their relatives already in Canada have been announced by the federal government.

"We are placing a high priority on processing immigrant visa applications from Poland in an effort to alleviate the pressures placed on Canadians and their families living in Poland," said Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy in making the announcement.

Faced with increasing numbers of Polish nationals seeking permanent resident status, the Canadian government has decided to step up its commitment to family reunification through new measures both in Canada and in Poland.

New initiatives

The new measures include the following initiatives:

- Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be encouraged to sponsor the immigration of relatives in Poland rather than having them come here as visitors or go to third countries, and the Canadian embassy in Warsaw will advise applicants to apply under the family class or assisted relative category. Assisted relatives are independent applicants who have family members in Canada willing to help them settle here. This category includes married children, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.
- Polish visitors already in Canada and with relatives here eligible and willing to assist them, can apply to be landed as permanent residents without having to leave the country, as is normally required.
- Polish visitors in Canada, who do not have relatives able to assist them, will be granted permission to work in Canada for 12 months, pending a review of the situation in Poland.

Polish applicants whose visitors visas are now in process in Warsaw will be able to benefit from the special measures on arrival in Canada.

More than 8,000 Polish visitors have entered Canada since the beginning of this year, a 25 per cent increase over the 1980 figure. Most of these visitors have returned to Poland but at least 1,500 are still in Canada.

Canada takes part in nuclear fuel waste project

Canada is taking part in an international geologic research project examining the safe disposal of nuclear fuel wastes.

The project being undertaken in an abandoned Swedish iron mine was established by an agreement signed by Finland, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. Canada and France are joining the project as associate members.

The project is being conducted under the auspices of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), of which Canada is a member.

The underground experiments to be undertaken over the next four years will involve the study of buffer and backfill materials, hydrogeology, and various tracer tests. Nothing of this magnitude has ever been undertaken co-operatively before in geologic disposal research and the outcome is expected to have a strong influence on whether or not further large-scale international projects will be initiated in the future.

In general, nuclear waste-disposal programs are characterized by their openness. The exchange of information between nations, *via* the exchange of reports and direct communications between scientists, is excellent. It is common practice to invite other countries, who may have similar geological interests, to review program plans and results and to send participants to major review meetings. Exchange of laboratory samples, experimental data and computer programs on an informal basis is also widespread.

Earlier this year, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) staff visited the Lawrence Livermore Laboratories of the University of California to discuss waste management topics. In June, a delegation of Swedish scientists were in Canada at an exchange meeting at AECL's Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment in Pinawa, Manitoba.