

met with Brazilian Minister of Planning Delfino Netto to discuss Canada's desire to participate in the development of the Brazilian economy, especially in the areas of satellite communications, transportation and energy.

Canadian bilateral assistance

The Canadian International Development Agency undertook a program of bilateral assistance to Brazil in 1968 and in January 1981 reviewed its willingness to continue the program with special emphasis on training. CIDA is also organizing a fair on transfer of technology in São Paulo next fall.

In Rio de Janeiro, Dr. MacGuigan met with a group of Canadian businessmen working in Brazil, gave a major speech at a luncheon hosted by the Brazilian chapter of the Canada-Brazil Chamber of Commerce, witnessed the signing of a letter of intent on film co-operation be-

tween the National Film Board of Canada and Brazil's Embrafilme and attended the opening night of the Canadian film festival.

The Canadian minister told the Chamber of Commerce that Canada's relations with Brazil "have never been as good, as varied, as intense or as visible".

"Canada wishes to reinforce its partnership with Brazil in such fields as agriculture, forestry, mining, satellite communication and hydroelectric development. These are all areas in which Canadian needs and expertise mesh easily with those of Brazil," Dr. MacGuigan told the group.

The Canadian external affairs minister also travelled to Salvador in northeastern Brazil to visit the Alcan operations. In São Luis, Dr. MacGuigan held discussions with local state authorities and met with a group of Canadian missionaries active in less developed parts of Brazil.

to the manpower ministers a four-part strategy to lay the basis for future non-inflationary growth.

The minister referred to increased investment in training in areas for which demand is the greatest. In this regard, labour and management will work together under a new occupational projection system in Canada, he said. Government should provide increased investment for training equipment and facilities in growth areas for the 1980s, said Mr. Axworthy. In addition, the Canadian minister told the committee, that targeted subsidies for apprentices must be applied to maintain and expand industrial skills training during recessive times.

The strategy also calls for measures to enhance and increase the mobility and retraining of workers in communities affected by economic decline. In such a community-based exercise the local community, labour management and government must be asked to take part in managing change.

Thirdly, Mr. Axworthy said, governments must maintain the existing skill base in industries facing temporary downturns. He noted Canada's work-sharing program which allows firms to retain trained personnel. The voluntary nature of the program, consultation and co-operation between the employees, employers and government are the key to the program's success, said Mr. Axworthy.

Non-traditional skills stressed

Finally, the Canadian minister said that governments have "a responsibility to encourage better use of under-utilized human resources through programs offering special training, counselling and wage subsidies and through programs which combat systemic discrimination in the market place. It is important to continue or expand such a program at this time "so that medium-term bottlenecks in labour supply do not choke off medium-term growth", said Mr. Axworthy.

He added that in many countries including Canada this anti-inflationary policy would require some increase in expenditures to expand the supply of skilled workers.

Mr. Axworthy said that "in a time of recession, increased measures to train, recycle and maintain our skill base, through our investment in human capital rather than investments in declining industries, will not only help weather current difficulties but will enhance the medium- and long-term employability of our citizens".

Investment in human resources required in difficult times

The Canadian government believes that labour market policies have "a great deal of scope" in preparing for non-inflationary economic growth by adding to the productive capacity of economies, Canada's Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy told the opening session of the manpower and social affairs committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, March 4.

The meeting was intended to provide proposals for initiatives for non-inflationary growth to be presented to OECD finance ministers who will meet in May.

The Canadian minister told the committee that it was necessary for governments to develop human resources directly and to maintain employment so that industry can develop skills which are critical to expanding capacity and thus lower inflation. Mr. Axworthy suggested



Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy (centre) and Labour Minister Charles Caccia (right) with Canadian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OECD M.A.R.A. Gherson (left).

Léo Jouan, OECD