

Assistance to Salvadoran refugees

Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced a program to assist recently released political prisoners in El Salvador to come to Canada. The program will provide safe haven for about 300 former political prisoners and their families who are among the 500 recently released under an amnesty proclamation by the government in El Salvador.

"Due to lack of stability in the area there is concern for the safety of these Salvadoran refugees. Every effort will be made to help those who want to leave the country to do so as quickly as possible," Mr. Axworthy said.

This program is part of a continuing effort by Mr. Axworthy to find ways to assist those affected by the unrest in El Salvador. These include:

- raising this year's refugee target for Central America to 2 000;
- strengthening the immigration capacity in Mexico City;
- accepting Salvadorans who face deportation from the United States;
- since 1981, helping over 2 100 Salvadorans to come to Canada, or to remain here and apply for permanent resident status.

Since his recent visit to Central America, Mr. Axworthy discussed the need for new solutions with a wide range of interested groups in Canada and with the government of El Salvador. "The program for political prisoners meets an urgent need," Mr. Axworthy said and called on Canadians to show their concern by offering settlement assistance and sponsorship for these Salvadoran families.

Atlantic vet college approved

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan and Veterans Affairs Minister Bennett Campbell have announced the signing of an agreement to initiate construction in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island of a veterinary college for the Maritime provinces and Newfoundland.

Under the agreement, the federal government will contribute \$18.25 million for design and construction of the new facility. This is 50 per cent of the total estimated cost of \$36.5 million. The Maritime provinces and Newfoundland will contribute the other 50 per cent.

The federal funding is available under the Special Recovery Projects Program established in the April 19 federal budget.

Canada and Senegal sign development co-operation agreement



Andre Sima

Following the second meeting of the Canada-Senegal Bilateral Commission held in Ottawa June 27-28, a development co-operation agreement was signed by the two countries. Shown above signing the agreement are Senegal's Minister of State in charge of Foreign Affairs Moustapha Niasse (centre) and Canadian Minister of State (External Relations) Charles Lapointe (right). Looking on are Senegal's Minister of Planning and Co-operation Cheikh Hamidou Kane (left), Ambassador Saliou Diodj Faye of Senegal (standing left) and Canada's Ambassador to Senegal Marius L. Bujold (standing right).

Judge Rosalie Abella heads commission

Minister of Employment and Immigration Lloyd Axworthy has announced the appointment of Judge Rosalie S. Abella of Toronto to head a Commission of Inquiry on Equality in Employment. The Commission will examine and report on ways to assist women, native people, disabled individuals and visible minorities to compete on an equal basis for employment opportunities.

"Such leadership by the government of Canada is designed to encourage the hiring, training and promotion of disadvantaged groups," Mr. Axworthy said.

Recent studies and demographic projections indicate women and other target groups will be the majority of entrants to the Canadian labour force during the 1980s.

"The elimination of systemic discrimination is essential to ensure the full participation of all Canadians in the public and private sectors. The growth of the Canadian economy depends on such participation," the minister added.

The one-person Commission will focus on 11 major Crown corporations and agencies which represent a wide range of economic activity and occupations. They

include: Petro Canada, Air Canada, Canadian National Railway Company, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canada Post Corporation, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, Export Development Corporation, Teleglobe Canada, De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited and Federal Business Development Bank.

"These corporations and agencies with their several thousand employees represent the industries and jobs of the future in transportation and aerospace, energy and natural resource development, communications, international trade and finance," Mr. Axworthy said.

Judge Abella, who is a judge of the Ontario Provincial Court, Family Division, has the mandate to seek from across Canada the views of the management and employees of the Crown corporations and of individuals and groups representing women, native people, disabled persons, visible minorities and others, the minister explained.

Judge Abella will report to the federal government in six months on the findings of the inquiry.