

## Canada signs rubber agreement

Canada recently signed, in New York, the International Natural Rubber Agreement (INRA), Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced.

The five-year agreement establishes an international producer/consumer agreement designed to stabilize the price of natural rubber through the establishment of an internationally financed and controlled buffer stock and a contingency buffer stock, and a council which would administer the provisions of the agreement.

As a major producer of synthetic rubber, Canada welcomes this agreement as being of benefit not only to consumers and producers of natural rubber but to the synthetic rubber industry as well. Canada has been involved over the past two years in the negotiations for this agreement which were held under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva.

## EC-Canada environmental talks

A delegation of environment experts from the Commission of the European Community (EC) met with their Canadian federal and provincial counterparts in Ottawa, Quebec City and Toronto July 7-11.

The talks were held within the context of the EC-Canada Exchange of Letters on Environmental Co-operation of November 1975 and the EC-Canada Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation of July 1976.

Since then the European Community and Canada have co-operated in exchanges of information on policies and programs concerning the environment in such areas as sewage treatment, noise pollution and environmental impact assessment.

Topics on the agenda for the meetings included: acid rain, the socio-economic impact of environmental legislation, water quality, pesticides and environmental aspects of forest management. The two groups also examined their co-operation in the field of environmental protection within the international organizations concerned with these questions (e.g., United Nations Environment Program, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, etc.).

## Embassy staff honoured

Eight Canadians, who were involved in the sheltering and evacuation of six American diplomats in Iran, were recently honoured by their country.

Five of the eight received the Order of Canada, while the remaining three were awarded the Order of Military Merit.

The announcement was made on Canada's birthday, July 1, and the decorations were presented to the recipients by Governor-General Edward Schreyer at an investiture in Ottawa on July 25.

The recipients of the Order of Canada and their levels of decoration are: Kenneth Taylor, officer; Laverna Dollimore, member; Roger Lucy, member; Mary O'Flaherty, member; and John Sheardown, member. Mr. Taylor, who recently was named to the post of Consul General in New York, was the former Ambassador to Iran. The remaining four named to the Order of Canada are members of the Department of External Affairs.

The three members of the Canadian Armed Forces, who were named to the level of member of the Order of Military Merit, are: Master Corporal George Brian, Sergeant James Edward and Sergeant Joseph Gauthier.

The Queen is the Sovereign of the Order of Canada and of the Order of Military Merit, which were established in 1967 and 1972 respectively.



*Ken Taylor, Canada's former Ambassador to Iran, was recently named Consul General in New York.*

## First Arctic gas sale

The first sale of natural gas from the Arctic islands, worth \$4 billion over the life of the contract at projected export prices, was announced recently by the Arctic Pilot Project, a consortium led by Petro-Canada.

The sales agreements call for Arctic islands gas to be sent to eastern Canada, freeing western Canadian gas for export to the United States.

The sale, subject to Canadian and U.S. regulatory-agency approval, calls for the delivery by 1985 of 450 million cubic feet of gas daily. Delivery of the gas is to begin in 1983 with export of 225 million cubic feet of gas from western Canada.

Under a complicated swap arrangement, delivery of the remaining 225 million cubic feet of gas will begin in 1985. The Arctic islands gas will actually be consumed in eastern Canada, and the western gas it displaces from Canada's pipeline system will be exported.

Although 225 million cubic feet is contracted as Arctic islands gas, all of the gas going to the U.S. will come from western Canada through the swap arrangement.

Petro-Canada chairman W.H. Hopper said the other half of the contract volume would be supplied from gas fields in western Canada, mainly Alberta.

Panarctic, a government-industry consortium of which Petro-Canada owns 45 per cent and provides the bulk of the exploration budget, has spent \$400 million in the last 20 years in the Arctic islands.

The Arctic islands gas agreement is for 20 years, while the delivery from western Canadian fields, is for 15 years.

## Wheat sales to China

The Canadian Wheat Board has announced a sales contract involving shipment of 1.4-million metric tons of wheat to China.

The Wheat Board said shipments will start in August and continue for six months through January 1981. All shipments will be made from Pacific coast ports. The grade options included in the contract provide for shipments of No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 Canada western red spring wheat as well as small quantities of No. 1 Canada western red winter wheat.

The contract is the second under a three-year agreement with China.