

Increased budget for international development

International development expenditures are expected to reach \$933 million in fiscal year 1975/76, an increase of 27 per cent. At current inflation rates, this will equal about 0.85 per cent of Canada's gross national product.

Information on Government spending plans for the new year indicates that almost \$250 million of the allocation will be spent in a combination of bilateral and multilateral food aid. Bilateral programs will total \$570 million and multilateral, \$302 million.

Another \$31.7 million will go to support efforts by Canadian and international non-governmental organizations; the International Development Research Centre will receive \$27 million. The Canadian International Development Agency will spend an additional \$22.6 million on administration, an amount equal to 2.4 per cent of total aid expenditure.

Food-price abatement may be temporary

Increasing costs in many parts of the Canadian food system continue to put pressure on food prices despite some moderation in the over-all inflation of food prices, the Food Prices Review Board reported this month.

In its seventh quarterly review of food price and cost developments, the Board cautioned against over-optimistic assessments of current food prices.

"Notwithstanding the relative abatement in food-price increases in the early months of the year, the degree of upward pressure of costs on prices suggests that the strong upward momentum of food-price inflation has still not yet been broken."

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Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.

Increases in the cost of food slackened from January to March owing to sharp declines in the price of beef and sugar, and to a lesser degree, potatoes and eggs. At the same time, there were substantial increases in the price of milk, bread, pork, processed vegetables and fresh fruit.

The report notes that the Food Prices Review Board's nutritious diet for a family of four rose in January and February to an annual Canadian average cost of about \$2,100, from \$2,060 in 1974.

For many families, actual food expenditures continue to be considerably higher than needed for a healthy, balanced diet.

The report points out that there is a "mood of considerable optimism" that this year's grain crops will be considerably larger than those in 1974. Yet good crops depend, as always, on good weather, a factor impossible to predict.

The report notes that crop yields are only one factor affecting the general course of retail food prices. Between two-thirds and three-fifths of what consumers pay for food is made up of costs accrued after it leaves the farm.

Labour accounts for a significant portion of those costs, and the report says that immediate and near-term prospects for continuing increases in that sector are substantial.

Last year, general increases in wages rose almost 12 per cent. Yet average hourly earnings in the food and beverage industry increased 15 per cent. Despite wage gains, labour productivity in 1974 was less than that in 1973.

Study of East European life in Poland and the Ukraine

The University of Alberta is offering a summer session course which will include visits by participants to the Ukraine and Poland.

The travel-study course is an interdisciplinary study of society and life in Eastern Europe with emphasis on the social, economic, and cultural aspects of the modern Ukraine and Poland. The course, which will be conducted in English, will include reading and written assignments and may be credited towards a university degree.

Regular instruction will be supple-

mented by lectures by Ukrainian and Polish scholars from the Kiev Shevchenko State University and the University of Warsaw, as well as by field trips to a number of cities in the Ukraine and historical sites in the Ukraine and Poland.

The cost, including tuition fees, estimated at \$1,800 may be considerably reduced by a grant — now under negotiation — from the federal and provincial governments, and by obtaining accommodation in the dormitories of Kiev and Warsaw Universities.

France/Canada teleconferences

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audio-visual centre at the University of Montreal led the 50-minute seminar which concentrated on the future of audio-visual communications. A film, produced by the Quebec Department of Communications, formed part of the presentation.

The second teleconference was a one-hour working session on teaching methods, between the Paris branch of the African School of Journalists and the audio-visual centre at the University of Montreal.

On April 7, CBC President Laurent Picard, linked with J.L. Guillaud, Director General of Télédiffusion française — 1, led a panel discussion on the future of satellites in broadcasting and journalism.

The following day a two-way teleconference was held between the Director General of UNESCO, A.M. M'Bow, who was visiting Ottawa, and UNESCO representatives, and Jean Cazeneuve, President of TF — 1.

Medical experiment

Last month, *via Intelsat* satellite, an audio-visual link between doctors in Montreal and in Paris took place. The groups were located at the Clinical Research Centre at St-Luc Hospital in Montreal and research units at l'hôpital Beaujon in Clichy and l'hôpital Henri-Mondor in Creteil, both suburbs of Paris.

Participants in the experiment concentrated on diseases of the liver and discussed clinical cases.

Mr. Pelletier said that the experiments were a clear demonstration of the kinds of international co-operation that could be achieved in the field communications.