

Britain and Canada renew military training pact

Canada and Britain have renewed an agreement allowing the British armed forces to use Canadian bases for training until 1991.

Defence Minister Allan McKinnon, who signed the renewal on November 26, said Canada might be closing some of the bases "if it weren't for other countries using them".

Sir John Ford, High Commissioner to Canada, who signed the agreement for Britain, said "both sides are getting a bargain".

The British use Canadian forces bases at Gagetown, New Brunswick, Suffield, Alberta and Goose Bay, Newfoundland. More than 8,000 British servicemen train in Canada every year, most of them at Suffield.

Britain sought permission to use Goose Bay for low-level flying and Ottawa agreed, Mr. McKinnon said.

Under the old agreement, signed in 1971, Britain spent \$13 million on permanent installations in Canada including \$2.6 million during the past year. In addition, the British spent \$6.3 million for Canadian military support for the British training program here.

Although the previous agreement was not due to expire until 1981, "early renewal will facilitate long-term operational and financial planning", said the Defence Department.

Canada administers the program; Britain is in operational control. The agreement covers some naval and air training and most land operations including training with the Canadian forces.

New Brunswick Premier talks trade in France

New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield recently completed a week-long stay in France, hopeful that a round of discussions with French officials and businessmen would increase exchanges of fisheries technology and tourism.

Mr. Hatfield said that informal talks with oystermen and officials in the western department of Poitou-Charentes indicated that exchanges on how to increase the yield of New Brunswick's oyster harvest would continue.

Rosalynn Carter receives international medical award



Rosalynn Carter, First Lady of the United States received the St. Boniface General Hospital Research Foundation Award in Winnipeg, November 15, for services in the field of mental health. The award, established in 1976, is presented annually to a person who has made a contribution to international medicine. Mrs. Carter is the honorary president of the American Mental Health Association. Mrs. Carter (second from left) dedicates the McEwen Building at the St. Boniface General Hospital during a ceremony at Government House, November 16. The building will be renovated to become the hospital's psychiatric wing. Also present are Manitoba Health Minister Bud Sherman (left), Dr. D.S. McEwen (right), retired medical director of the hospital, and Maureen McTeer, wife of Prime Minister Joe Clark.

Canadian named to top NATO post

Canada's chief of defence staff, Admiral Robert Falls is to become the top military man in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Admiral Falls will assume the duties of chairman of the NATO military committee July 1, 1980, replacing General Zeiner Gundersen of Norway.

Although the former Government had supported the move, which was approved by member NATO nations in May, Mr. Clark's Government had delayed its endorsement. The hesitancy was based primarily on obtaining a clear definition of the job; the Government wanted to ensure it was not merely a ceremonial posting.

The military committee, composed of the chiefs of staff of each nation, is responsible for direction and advice regarding military policy, strategy of the alliance, and providing guidance to the major commanders.

Poland to buy grain

Poland has agreed to purchase between three million and 4.5 million tonnes (i.e. metric tons) of Canadian grain over three years, beginning in 1980.

The agreement does not specify prices or delivery dates. These will be set in specific sales contracts that will be negotiated periodically. The pact is designed to assure Poland that Canadian grain will be available and to assure Canada that Poland will take certain indicated amounts.

Under a current agreement, Poland is committed to buy 3.1 million tonnes of Canadian grain in the three years ending this year.

In each of the coming three years, Poland is to buy between one million and 1.5 million tonnes of hard red spring wheat, durum wheat, barley and oats, said Donald Mazankowski, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.