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## Mr. Jamieson to visit Japan, China

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, will visit Japan from January 24 to 29 and the People's Republic of China from January 29 to February 3.

In Japan, Mr. Jamieson will have the opportunity to meet the new Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Sunoia Sonoda, for the first time. He also expects to hold talks with other government leaders. Discussions will centre on international economic and political matters of mutual interest and on a review of aspects of bilateral relations. During their bilateral talks, the two foreign ministers expect also to discuss nuclear safeguards.

The visit to the People's Republic of China will reciprocate that of Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua to Canada last autumn. The trip will give Mr. Jamieson the opportunity to follow up on the useful talks he had with Mr. Huang on the further development of bilateral relations between Canada and China and on important international questions. In addition to his discussions with Mr. Huang, Mr. Jamieson is expected to meet with other Chinese leaders.

Mr. Jamieson's trip takes place at the same time as the visit to Japan and China of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, which is under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs, and he plans to attend one of the concerts given by the orchestra in each capital.

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## EDC finances sales to Poland

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has extended a \$285-million line of credit to Poland for the purchase of Canadian goods and services during the next two years. Sales will probably include mining, chemical and electrical equipment, hotels and marine products. The agreement, which was signed in December between EDC and Poland's Bank Handlowy W. Warszawie S.A., is an extension of a 1975 financing protocol.

EDC also announced the signing of financing agreements worth \$46.9 million to support the \$52.1-million sale of services, capital goods and equipment for Poland's Kwidzyn pulp and paper complex. The financing is in addition to that covering 13 export sales contracts valued at \$172 million and secured by Canadian

exporters involved in the design and construction of the three-mill complex.

EDC chairman and president John A. MacDonald said the financing agreements had special significance for Canada's forest-products equipment industry which has been engaged in the Polish project for more than two years.

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## Canada Pension Plan amendment affects divorced persons

Canada Pension Plan credits earned by a husband and wife during marriage can now be divided equally between them on divorce or annulment. This is one of several amendments to the CPP enacted in July last year that came into effect January 1.

The provision offers protection for retirement and disability and survivorship coverage to spouses who, by working in the home, did not contribute directly to the Plan.

The split of pension credits would cover all years of a marriage after the inception of the CPP in 1966, up to the year the spouses separated. However, they have to have lived together for at least three consecutive years during the marriage, and application for the division of pension credits must be made within three years of marriage dissolution. The provision applies only to marriages dissolved on or after January 1, 1978.

A number of more technical CPP amendments will also come into effect, including a provision which will allow up to 12 months retroactive payment of retirement benefits to all late applicants. Previously, these benefits were paid only to applicants over 70 years of age. Another amendment eliminates the reductions in benefits to orphans and children of disabled contributors in families with more than four children.

### Amendment not enacted

An amendment that will not come into force is a provision which would allow CPP contributors who leave the labour force to raise young children (up to age seven) to drop these years from their contributory period when establishing their entitlement to CPP benefits. The provision would have safeguarded contributors' eligibility for CPP disability and survivorship coverage and would have protected the amount of their benefits against the effects of several years of low or zero

earnings.

However, since major alterations to the Canada Pension Plan require the approval of two-thirds of the provinces of Canada containing two-thirds of the population, Ontario (with slightly more than one-third of the population) and British Columbia were able to veto the amendment.

Contrary to Ontario's findings, some actuarial studies have suggested that the provision would raise the required CPP contribution rate by less than one-third of a percentage point over the next 50 years.

Other provincial governments, and the federal and provincial advisory councils on the status of women, may eventually induce the Ontario and British Columbia governments to reconsider their stand.

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## Outstanding public servant

The Prime Minister recently announced that Sylvain Cloutier, Deputy Minister for Transport Canada, would receive the Outstanding Achievement Award of the Public Service for 1977.

The Outstanding Achievement Award — a citation and an honorarium of \$5,000 — is granted under the Incentive Award Plan of the Public Service of Canada. The recipient is chosen by a selection committee made up of five prominent Canadians appointed by the Prime Minister from outside the Public Service.

Mr. Cloutier was appointed a commissioner of the Public Service Commission in 1965 and, from 1967 to 1970, he served as a deputy secretary to the Treasury Board. In March 1970, he was appointed Deputy Minister, National Revenue. He became Deputy Minister, National Defence, in 1971 and assumed his present position in 1975.

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## Last ship in Seaway

The St. Lawrence Seaway closed for the season on Christmas Day, although officially the system had closed December 15.

The last ship, about 2.45 p.m. Christmas Day, was the *Westwind*, a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker, which had run aground near Sault Ste. Marie on December 13. She was refloated and brought up the rear as more than 80 ships raced to beat the winter ice.