

to raise expressions of Canadian concern, both in the press and in the House of Commons. On June 1, Fred King (PC, Okanagan-Similkameen), speaking in the Commons, questioned then-External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen as to consultations with NATO Foreign Ministers in Washington with regard to the case. Mr. King stated that "abuses of human rights such as those affecting the Sakharovs are major impediments to achieving better relations between our countries." Mr. MacEachen responded that after consultation with the ministers, he considered that it would be "counterproductive for NATO Ministers to make a declaration on this particular case because it might be construed as being a confrontational and political move on the part of the Alliance, when it is really a case of human rights and humanitarian considerations." Mr. MacEachen stated that he, along with the other foreign ministers, felt that it would be more prudent and perhaps more effective in the long run to continue to urge diplomatically the Soviet Union to "respond to our pleas." Representations to the Soviet government would continue, he added. Should more effective methods become evident, such as joint appeal on the part of Helsinki signatories, Canada would consider joining in such an appeal, said Mr. MacEachen.

## **TRADE**

### **East Bloc Fish Purchases**

On June 29, then-Fisheries and Oceans Minister Pierre De Bané announced that sales of Canadian processed fish products to the German Democratic Republic (GDR) were anticipated to reach a total of between \$2.11 and \$2.4 million for the current year. This figure would raise the total sales to the East bloc (GDR, USSR, Poland and Cuba) to a 1984 level of \$17.78 million. The GDR, it was announced, was being allocated an increase in their total allowable catch over the 1983 figure — 14,150 tonnes. This increase resulted from the addition of silver hake to the previous list of cod, redfish, witch flounder, Greenland halibut, and roundnose grenadier. In addition, the GDR would make purchases of various cod and herring products from the Canadian industry (Fisheries and Oceans news release, June 29).

The allocations for all East bloc countries are of stocks surplus to the requirements of Canada's own fishing industry. Mr. De Bané noted that the annual arrangements with the East bloc nations, made under bilateral treaties, would open further new markets for Canadian fish products. With contract negotiations underway, the 1984 allocation for the East bloc reached a total of 141,060 tonnes of surplus fish.

### **Ministerial-Provincial Meetings**

International Trade Minister Francis Fox met with six provincial business development ministers July 9 to 13 in the first of a series of consultations which will include all ten provincial ministers as well as senior business officials. The objective of the meetings is to assess Canada's strengths in international trade and the prospects for expanding exports. Mr. Fox spoke of the "tremendous untapped potential" available in many Canadian firms,

especially small- and medium-sized, which have a "world class product or service" to offer foreign buyers. The talks will also focus on the dangers inherent in the foreign imposition of protectionist measures (such as steel and copper in the US). Mr. Fox indicated that the federal government would cooperate with provincial counterparts to ensure that Canada would be guaranteed "the existence of an open and healthy international trading environment." Increased exports would lead to increased employment, said the Minister (External Affairs communiqué, July 9).

### **Clothing-Textile Imports**

Questions were raised in the House of Commons during June on the issue of clothing and textile imports and the possible damage such imports might cause to the domestic industry. In the Commons June 1, Dan Heap (NDP, Spadina) asked whether the Government would consider instituting import control measures to offset the rising imports coming from countries with lower wage levels. Mr. Heap said that such measures might "enable Canadian clothing manufacturers to establish firm and long-lasting employment on the basis of a reliable share of the . . . domestic market." Minister for External Relations Jean-Luc Pepin pointed out that the federal government must be cautious in implementing any form of protectionist measure, since the entire problem was one of "balance." Should Canada respond to increased low-priced imports in the clothing and textile industry from countries which export to Canada with tariffs and barriers, they will "reciprocate in kind — sometimes in even greater measure against our exports abroad."

Mr. Heap again made a representation to the Government to favor some form of protective measure for the domestic industry. He pointed out in a lengthy explanation the problem facing the Canadian textile and clothing industry created by imports (increasing in the past three years at a rate of from 20 to 25 percent per year) from countries with extremely low wages. Mr. Heap stated that the domestic industry was threatened by the "uncertainty engendered" by the present government policy that permits increased imports. He noted that the problem was one of developing the domestic industry positively, through the complete utilization of a "capable workforce," raw materials and market. Mr. Heap was answered by Ralph Ferguson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, who stated that the Government's policy for the industry was based on the "complementary elements of industrial adjustment and trade policy." He indicated that because Canada was a signatory to the multi-fibre agreement, Canada might claim "temporary relief" for the clothing sector to allow time "to adjust and increase their competitiveness with respect to disruptive imports from low-cost exporting countries." At the present time, he indicated, bilateral restraint arrangements had been concluded to the end of 1986. Canada had instituted measures designed to safeguard the domestic industry, including "a more controlled flow of import shipments throughout the year, stricter customs inspections at ports of entry and examination of duty drawback and remission schemes." Mr. Ferguson also mentioned the creation of a Textiles and Clothing Advisory Committee to advise the International Trade Min-