

that the subject be referred to international experts. A news release issued May 17 by Fisheries and Oceans Canada states that the document on which the European Parliament's resolution was based was found by Canadian experts to be seriously flawed. "The document fails, in particular, to take adequate account of available scientific information concerning the two principal questions on which criticism of the seal hunt is based, i.e. the status of the seal populations and killing methods used in the hunt," the news release stated. The proposal to the European Commission suggests that these questions be referred to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and that a special group of experts be established. The Canadian Government maintained that Canada's management of the seal hunt is among the strictest and most humane in the world.

In the House of Commons May 18 Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Roméo LeBlanc said that the "European vote was very much the result of misinformation and misunderstanding. . . good information will solve this matter, not emotion and photography." (See "International Canada," March 1982, in *International Perspectives*, May/June 1982.)

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Montreal Conference

Delegates from the human rights commissions of nineteen of the twenty-five countries belonging to the International Federation of Human Rights joined non-government delegates from thirty countries at the University of Montreal for a three-day meeting May 22 to 24. The federation passed resolutions to lobby government and para-government organizations to support provisions for international investigations into "disappearances," to support an international charter of rights for prisoners, and to support the creation of a United Nations working group to study the problems of native peoples who wish international recognition as independent nations (*Globe and Mail*, May 25).

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

International Labour Day

Amnesty International, Canadian Section (English Speaking), issued an appeal to trade unionists to honour International Labour Day (May 1) by applying pressure on governments who have imprisoned trade unionists. In a

press release May 1, special appeals were requested regarding three "Prisoners of Conscience" in Argentina, South Africa and Turkey. Amnesty International also provided a list of eighty-five trade unionists and workers in twenty-four countries whose cases it has taken up. Amnesty International urged actions such as appeals through letters and telegrams to the government authorities responsible.

Anniversary

The House of Commons unanimously applauded Amnesty International May 28 on the occasion of the organization's twenty-first birthday. The House wished Amnesty International many more years of success in its work to free prisoners of conscience, to halt torture and execution and to seek fair trials for political prisoners.

AGREEMENTS

Tin

Minister of Trade Ed Lumley announced April 21 a Cabinet decision to sign the Sixth International Tin Agreement. Like the previous agreements, its objective is to achieve a long-term balance between world tin production and consumption, and to prevent excessive fluctuations in the price of tin (External Affairs press release, April 21).

VERSAILLES ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Prime Minister

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau met French President François Mitterand April 17 in Vancouver to discuss the agenda for the seven-nation economic summit to be held in June in Versailles, France. During April and May Canada's hopes for the summit become clearer as economic events in Canada emerged as part of the larger global recession. The government repeated its view that a lowering of US interest rates is crucial for a world economic recovery from the largest recession in decades. Canada, the US, France, West Germany, Italy, Great Britain and Japan will be represented at the meeting of the government leaders. Mr. Trudeau told reporters May 26 that "to me, the most important thing that can happen at the summit is the creation of a climate of confidence" which would put people back to work in other countries and in turn alleviate unemployment in Canada as investor confidence is renewed (*Globe and Mail*, May 27).