
Queen Mother draws crowds during Canadian visit

The Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth, returned to England recently after a week-long stay in Canada marked by crowds of admirers wherever she appeared.

The 78-year-old Queen Mother arrived at Canadian Forces Base Shearwater, near Halifax, June 27, and was greeted by Governor-General Edward Schreyer, Regional Economic Minister Elmer Mackay, on behalf of Prime Minister Clark, and Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan.

Thousands of spectators lined the route waving flags and applauding as the royal motorcade proceeded from the forces' base to Halifax. It was the Queen Mother's seventh visit to Canada; her last visit was 12 years ago.

During her three-day stay in Nova Scotia before travelling to Toronto, the Queen Mother officially opened the International Gathering of the Clans, the summer-long festival that is expected to attract some 40,000 tourists to the province.

The Queen Mother also visited Halifax's historic Citadel Hill to present, on behalf of the Queen, the Colour for the Maritime Command. The presentation of a new colour is a time-honoured tradition of the Canadian military. The colour will be used on both coasts by naval units of the armed forces.

In addition, the Queen Mother appeared at flag-raising and sod-turning ceremonies and visited war veterans and other patients at a Halifax hospital. She also participated in a ceremony marking the International Year of the Child and dedicated a statue at the city's library in honour of Winston Churchill.

In Toronto the Queen Mother joined in Canada Day celebrations at Queen's Park with a visit to the Ontario Legislature accompanied by Ontario Premier William Davis. The next day the Queen Mother was cheered by 30,000 fans as she entered Woodbine race track to attend the one-hundred-and-twentieth running of the Queen's Plate Stakes, Canada's oldest and richest horse race. After the Queen Mother presented the Plate to Bud Willmot, owner of the winning horse Steady Growth, she toured the race track and was cheered once again as she left the grounds.

Energy measures considered

Canadians will not feel the immediate effect of the latest oil price increase by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Ray Hnatyshyn said recently.

The Minister said the Government's oil import compensation program will temporarily cushion the impact of the increase. The federal program subsidizes the price of oil imports allowing Canadians to pay only about two-thirds the world's price for oil.

"...The decision by OPEC strengthens our view that domestic oil pricing policy needs to be re-examined", said Mr. Hnatyshyn. "In addition, the higher world price for oil should underscore to Canadians the necessity for increased energy conservation in Canada," he said.

"The international oil market is likely to remain tight for the foreseeable future. This situation lends new urgency to pressing ahead with the commitment by my Government to achieve self-sufficiency in energy for Canada by 1990. Over the next weeks and months we will be considering measures that will lead to the attainment of this objective," said the Minister.

Human rights report published

Canada's first report to the United Nations on the progress of Canadian civil and political rights is now available to the public, Secretary of State David MacDonald has announced.

Prepared in response to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the 479-page report outlines measures adopted by Canada which advance the rights specified in the agreement.

The report was submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Secretary of State for External Affairs last April and was passed on to the UN Human Rights Committee for further study.

"It is the result of significant federal-provincial co-operation and represents a major review of human rights measured against comprehensive documentation of Canadian legislation. As such it will be widely referred to by legislators, lawyers and laymen alike whose concerns lie in

the area of human rights," said Mr. MacDonald.

The report deals with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the context of the Canadian constitutional system and examines Canadian law at the national, provincial and territorial levels to determine to what degree it conforms with the agreement.

Under the covenant, Canada and other parties are committed to amending domestic law, where necessary, to comply with the precepts stipulated in the agreement.

The report is available to interested individuals and institutions through the Department of the Secretary of State.

Winter and size cited for high energy use

Canada, on a *per capita* basis, consumes more energy than any other nation in the world, the International Energy Agency reports.

However, the high use of energy by Canadians is offset somewhat by the country's harsh climate and unique transportation network.

Latest statistics (1977) from the agency show the average Canadian uses the equivalent of 8.7 tons of oil a year. That compares with 8.3 in the United States, 4.25 in West Germany, 3.8 for Britain and 3 tons for Japan.

Canada has topped a list of 19 Western countries since 1970.

Coal, oil, natural gas and electricity are the primary energy sources used to gather the statistics. Conversion from one unit of measurement to the equivalent in tons of oil is not necessarily accurate, said a federal Energy Department spokesman.

At the same time, the price Canadians pay for their oil, \$13.75 a barrel, is the lowest among the seven countries which gathered at the recent Tokyo economic summit.

Canadians pay only about two-thirds of world oil prices because the Government provides oil-price subsidies.

The cold winter climate and long distances required to travel have been cited as reasons for Canadians using more energy *per capita* than countries with larger populations.

Canadians use more fuel oil than Americans but less gasoline and oil products, the figures show.