

CHILE

Seizure of Dissident

While accompanied by two senior Canadian diplomats from the Santiago embassy, an unidentified Chilean political dissident was seized September 10 by Chilean police officials. He was being escorted from the Canadian embassy to the refuge of the *Vicaria de la Solidaridad*, Santiago's Catholic archdiocese human rights agency, when the group was accosted by Chilean police who forcibly removed him. Despite the presence and immediate protests of Canada's first secretary and consul Donald McGillivray, the removal of the dissident was effected. Upon notification of the incident, Canadian ambassador Clayton Bullis expressed his "extreme concern," and indicated that contact with the Chilean authorities would be made.

In a *Globe and Mail* article September 11, it was reported that the dissident had been among several protesters representing the Committee for Life who had entered the Canadian embassy in an attempt to read a statement denouncing the Chilean government. Chilean secret service police had been present at the time. Ambassador Bullis stated that the man "must be let go," and embassy officials were later informed by Chilean authorities that the unnamed dissident had been seized "by mistake" and had been released. However, Mr. McGillivray noted that no confirmation of the release had been received by the Canadian embassy.

CUBA

Export Credit

On August 29, then Agriculture Minister Ralph Ferguson announced the extension of a \$15 million line of credit to Cuba in order to facilitate the sale of food and agricultural products exported from Canada. Canagrex, the Canadian Agricultural Export Corporation, arranged the credit terms between a Canadian financial institution and the Banco Nacional de Cuba. Mr. Ferguson stated that a potential for \$25 million in purchases might be expected from the credit package. Increases in agri-food trade would centre on such products as "soya bean meal, corn, seed potatoes, beans and turkey," according to an Agriculture Canada press release August 29. Mr. Ferguson indicated that the line of credit would support Canadian exports to Cuba, which have, in recent years, been faced with increasing competition from European and South American sources. Under the terms of the agreement, credit will be applied to purchases made by Cuba's Alimport, with Cuba selecting Canadian exporters.

DENMARK

Canadian Protest

The Canadian government issued an official protest in early August over the July 28 visit of the Danish cabinet

minister responsible for Greenland to the island of Hans, located between Greenland and Ellesmere Island. Both Canada and Denmark have disputed ownership of the small island since negotiations establishing the border between Greenland and Canada were concluded in 1973. When it was discovered that the boundary bisected the island of Hans, ownership was left in abeyance, which has resulted in frequent protests against claimed attempts at establishing sovereignty over the disputed territory. Canada, in this latest protest, noted that the Danish representative had left behind a Danish flag on the island. Talks are expected to resume at a future date to establish ownership (*Globe and Mail*, August 15).

GREECE

Air Agreement

Canada and Greece signed a new bilateral Air Transport Agreement August 20, it was announced by then External Affairs Minister Jean Chrétien and then Transport Minister Lloyd Axworthy. The agreement was signed by then Minister of State for Multiculturalism David Collette, on the part of Canada, and by Greek ambassador Emmanuel Megalokonomos. The new agreement allows Olympic Airways of Greece to extend its international route into Toronto and Montreal, while at the same time making provision for the granting of future traffic rights to CP Air for the development of services into Greece (External Affairs communiqué, August 14).

GUINEA

Civil Aviation

A project agreement was signed between Canada and Guinea August 24, providing for the acquisition by Guinea of Canadian goods and services in the aviation sector for a total value of \$21.6 million. The agreement, signed by then Minister for International Trade Francis Fox and Guinea's Minister of Transport H.E. Chef de Bataillon Abdourahmane Kaba, will be financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Included in the purchase will be a DASH-7 de Havilland aircraft. CIDA's bilateral development program in Guinea maintains as a priority the field of civil aviation, and this current project, in addition to the aircraft, will encompass "aviation equipment and parts, technical assistance and training" as well as the rehabilitating of airfields in the Guinea interior in an effort to widen socio-economic development opportunities (External Affairs communiqué, August 24).

Accompanied by a Guinean delegation of officials from the Transport ministry and from the State corporation Air Guinea, Chef de Bataillon Kaba visited Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. Discussions were held with Canadian government and industry representatives involved in Guinean projects of development and expansion.