

Canada Weekly

Volume 4, No. 26

June 30, 1976



Ottawa, Canada.

Vancouver — city where new hope for human settlements was born, 1

Contribution to Mozambique aid fund, 3

Royalty on summer tour in Canada, 3

Federal pension office moves East, 3

Olympics arts and culture festival free shows, 4

Nova Scotia schooner visits U.S., 4

International Council of Women meet in Vancouver, 4

Mr. Trudeau meets President Ford, 5

Caffeine keeps premature babies breathing, 5

The seal who thought he was "people", 6

News briefs, 6

Vancouver — city where new hope for human settlements was born

Habitat, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, came to a close on June 11 in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver, Canada's third largest city. Inaugurated on May 31 by UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, Habitat began with opening addresses by Governor-General Jules Léger and Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Other leading Canadian speakers were Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen and Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson, who presided over the plenary session.

This was Canada's first UN conference, and it also marked the first time that such an event had been held in a city other than a capital. Habitat was in fact, the idea of a Canadian, Dr. Victor Goldbloom, Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment, who submitted a proposal for such a conference at the United Nations Conference on the Environment in Stockholm in 1972.

Almost without exception, the heads of the delegations of the 131 countries, six national liberation organizations, 160 non-governmental organizations and a number of inter-governmental bodies represented at Vancouver commented in their speeches on the beauty of the city, which some saw as a model for human habitat.

The Vancouver Declaration

Canada was concerned mainly with control and value of land, indigenous peoples, status of women, safe water, nuclear energy and access to information.

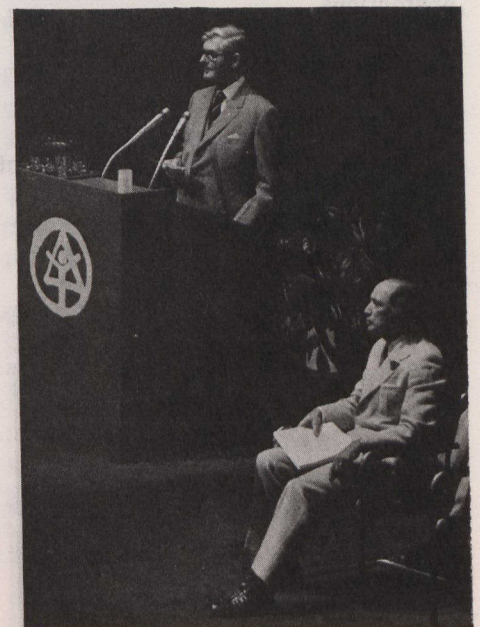
The plenary meeting, which included 18 sessions, closed with the adoption of the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements. The document, proposed by the "group of 77" developing countries, was approved by a vote of 89 to 15, with ten abstentions, including Canada.

Justice Minister Ron Basford, head of the Canadian delegation, explained that Canada could not vote for Article 4 of the Declaration of Principles because it established a link with the United Nations resolution that equated Zionism with racism.

Canada was in agreement with the remaining 54 clauses of the Declaration, which called for the improvement of the quality of life as the primary aim of human-settlement policy.

International co-operation

The program of international co-operation, another main theme of the Conference, was adopted by consensus. One of its resolutions called for the



Governor-General Jules Léger addresses delegates at the opening of Habitat. The Prime Minister looks on.

formation of a special United Nations agency on human settlements. Its location and status in the UN Secretariat in relation to two other similar bodies (the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York and the United Nations Environment Program in Nairobi) will be dealt with at the

