

## Emergency relief for Mauritania

Canada will provide \$300 000 to aid victims of the severe drought affecting Mauritania, Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs announced last month. The funds will be provided through the International Humanitarian Assistance program of the Canadian International Development Agency.

Hit by successive droughts over the past several years, Mauritania received only a very light rainfall in 1982, leading to a bad harvest and poor pastureland. This situation was worsened by a plague of locusts and other insects. It is estimated that 1.2 million of this West African country's population of 1.6 million have been affected.

Canada's contribution will support this program by providing \$175 000 to the Mauritanian Red Crescent for the purchase of relief supplies including food, blankets and clothing. In addition, Canadian Lutheran World Relief will receive \$125 000 to assist the Lutheran World Service in providing transportation for these and other relief supplies. The above grants are in addition to \$2 million in food aid delivered to Mauritania.

## Business centre planned

The Department of External Affairs will support the establishment of an International Business Research Centre as a division of the Conference Board of Canada, Minister of State (International Trade) Gerald Regan has announced.

Mr. Regan said that the centre would play an important role in developing a base for improving policies and practices of international trade management. "The centre will contribute to the public understanding and resolution of those international trade issues of particular interest to Canadian industry," he said. The centre will carry out research studies, hold conferences and provide an information service.

An advisory council consisting of both private and public sector representatives will provide guidance to the centre and will serve as a forum for exchanging ideas among members and setting priorities for the centre.

The Department of External Affairs will provide about a third of the centre's \$450 000 annual operating budget over the next five years while the rest of the funding will come from the private sector and the Conference Board of Canada.

## New CIDA head

Margaret Catley-Carlson, 41, has been appointed president of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Prime Minister Trudeau announced recently.



Margaret Catley-Carlson

Prior to her appointment, Mrs. Catley-Carlson was Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director (Operations) for UNICEF. She was vice-president of CIDA from 1978 to 1979 and acting president until 1980. She has worked in various divisions of External Affairs, including postings in London and Colombo, Sri Lanka, and was named Assistant Under-Secretary in 1980. She replaces Marcel Massé who was appointed Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in October 1982.

## Royal couple pay 17-day visit to Canada



Their Royal Highnesses, Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales, paid a triumphant 17-day visit to Canada, June 14-July 1. After arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia, their itinerary took them to New Brunswick, Ontario, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island before flying to Edmonton, Alberta, for the official opening of the World University Games. It was Prince Charles' seventh visit to Canada since becoming Prince of Wales in 1969; the Princess of Wales was visiting for the first time. His Royal Highness Prince Philip visited three Ontario cities—London, Toronto and Ottawa, June 30-July 6 to participate in events marking the one-hundredth anniversary of the Royal Canadian Regiment. (Above) Prince Charles, Diana, Princess of Wales with Prime Minister Trudeau.

## Information act in effect

Canada's new Access to Information Act, intended to open federal files to public scrutiny, came into effect July 1, Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan announced.

A companion law, the Privacy Act, protecting the privacy of personal information held by government agencies, was also proclaimed on the same date.

It was announced recently that Inger Hansen will be information commissioner and John Grace, a member of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, will be privacy commissioner.

Richard Vroom