

Mines minister makes tour

Minister of State for Mines Judy Erola recently visited Australia, Indonesia and Thailand to discuss matters of common interest in the development of mineral resources.

In Australia, Mrs. Erola met with Australian government officials including, J.D. Anthony, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Resources, and Senator J.L. Carrick, Minister for National Development and Energy, as well as federal and state officials in Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane and Darwin.

During their discussions, Mrs. Erola and Mr. Anthony reached agreement on setting up a Canada-Australia working group on mineral resources which will meet annually, alternately in Ottawa and Canberra. The working group will discuss general resource policy questions such as royalties, taxation, industry assistance measures, and federal, state and provincial responsibilities in developing and implementing minerals policies.

Reviewed mineral policies

The visit provided an opportunity to review general mineral resource policies including current developments for such mineral products as coal, copper, iron ore, nickel, lead, zinc and uranium. Questions concerning health and safety, taxation, industry assistance measures, labour and manpower issues, and mining equipment were also discussed.

Both Canada and Australia are major producers and exporters of mineral resources and face similar issues on a wide range of mineral policy questions.

Included in the visit was an inspection of coal mining and shipping facilities in eastern Australia and a number of copper-lead-zinc, manganese, bauxite and uranium deposits. Mrs. Erola also met with representatives of some of the Canadian companies participating in mineral exploration and development in Australia.

During her visit to Indonesia, Mrs. Erola toured the nickel laterite operation of INCO Limited and met with members of the Indonesian government.

In Thailand, the minister met with Thailand's Minister of Industry, Major General Chatichai Choonhavan. Thailand is seeking to develop its mineral and energy resources and is seeking foreign sources of technical expertise. Thailand is looking to Canada for assistance in potash development, remote sensing, energy and a number of related fields.

Canada-New Zealand trade pact

Canada and New Zealand have signed a new agreement on trade and economic co-operation.

The agreement, which replaces the 1932 Canada-New Zealand Trade Agreement, was signed in Ottawa by Canadian Minister of Trade Ed Lumley and New Zealand Minister of Overseas Trade Brian Talboys.



Mr. Talboys (left) and Mr. Lumley (right) sign co-operation agreement.

The two ministers said that the new agreement would provide a framework for further strengthening economic co-operation between the two countries. They said that both countries would maintain preferential tariff treatment for each other's products and that both would provide compensation should one side's benefits under the agreement be impaired by increases in statutory duty rates or by any changes in import restrictions.

The agreement also established a consultative committee which would help to promote increased industrial and technological co-operation, including joint ventures between Canadian and New Zealand companies.

Prior consultation

Mr. Lumley indicated that the government had consulted with provincial and industrial representatives prior to the renegotiation of the agreement and that there was widespread support for the continuation of preferential trade arrangements with New Zealand. He noted that New Zealand was embarking on a number of

major resource development projects in which Canadian industry had demonstrated technological and export capabilities.

Mr. Talboys said that "the new agreement recognized New Zealand's traditional agricultural trade interests and provided a framework within which New Zealand businessmen can diversify export and joint venture interests in Canada".

Food to African countries

Canada is providing food aid to three African countries — Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

The Canadian government is providing \$5 million in food aid for refugees in Somalia. This includes \$3 million in wheat flour and \$2 million in rapeseed oil including transportation.

In addition, Canada is giving Sudan a \$4-million grant for the purchase of wheat flour for relief of refugees. All of the flour, approximately 6,500 metric tons will be shipped before March 31, 1982.

Canada is also providing \$300,000 to the United Nations Children Fund for assistance in transporting emergency food supplies to the West Nile and Karamoja regions of Uganda. As part of Canada's bilateral food aid program \$2 million in grains and edible oils were delivered to Uganda in August.

Seeing Canada on a budget

The Canadian Government Office of Tourism (CGOT) has published a new Canadian travel guide for the cost-conscious consumer.

Budget Travel in Canada is based largely on the research of 72 students, in 15 Canadian cities under the direction of CGOT and the Canadian Universities Travel Service.

The 415-page book contains ideas, suggestions and factual information on how to see Canada and at the same time save money. Everything from transportation and accommodation facilities, to grocery store chains and fast food outlets is described, reviewed and compared. Historical and geographical data, along with discount information, and cultural and recreational activities are provided for every region in the country.

Budget Travel in Canada is being sold in Canada, the United States and Britain.