

take the necessary measures to assure that the security provisions of the proposal are strictly adhered to. For our part, as members of the Security Council, we would view with grave concern any actions during the transition period that could threaten the security of Namibia and its prompt achievement of independence, and we would act accordingly.

"Once the elections have been certified, the constituent assembly will meet to consider the remaining steps towards independence, including the drafting of the future Constitution of Namibia."

#### Urgency of initiative

Mr. Jamieson reviewed from the outset how the Security Council initiative had progressed, emphasizing that the five nations had sought a practical means to end the 30-year stalemate on Namibia. The imminence of the installation of the so-called Turnhalle Constitution, forecast for June 1977, which "would have resulted in the unilateral establishment of a government based on ethnic groups and excluding participation by any political

party, and most importantly by one of the major political movements in the territory, SWAPO", had added urgency to the initiative begun in April 1977. The five nations, recognizing they had no mandate to make any agreements regarding Namibia, acted as an "informal contact group" with the intention of bringing the matter within the scope of the Security Council as soon as possible, said Mr. Jamieson.

"Intensive diplomatic activity" took place over the course of more than a year, he continued, including discussions with South Africa in April, June, September and December, and with SWAPO in August, October and November. Meanwhile, "the five" had consulted closely with the UN Secretary-General, and with the Governments of Nigeria, Mauritius, Gabon and with all other Namibian parties. The importance of the mission was emphasized by the participation of the foreign ministers of all five nations in discussions with South Africa and SWAPO, which took place in New York on February 11 and 12.

"At the outset, our efforts were greeted with mistrust and suspicion on all sides," Mr. Jamieson said, "and, in particular, on the part of the principal interested parties, the Government of South Africa and SWAPO." Each was convinced, he said, that "our efforts were designed to deliver Namibia into the hands of the other without regard for their interests, or for the interests of the Namibian people as a whole."

Mr. Jamieson noted that the "difficult question" of Walvis Bay was omitted from the proposal because the five nations saw no way of settling the question at present. However, they felt strongly that "the issue should not delay the long sought-after independence of Namibia" and they considered that "all aspects of the question must be subject to discussion between the South African Government and the elected Government of Namibia".

Just before arriving at the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Jamieson concluded, he had been informed of South Africa's acceptance of the proposal.

#### New cancer research centre

Dr. Phil Gold has been named director of Montreal's newly-created McGill Cancer Centre. The multi-disciplinary centre encompasses the treatment of cancer as well as research and teaching.

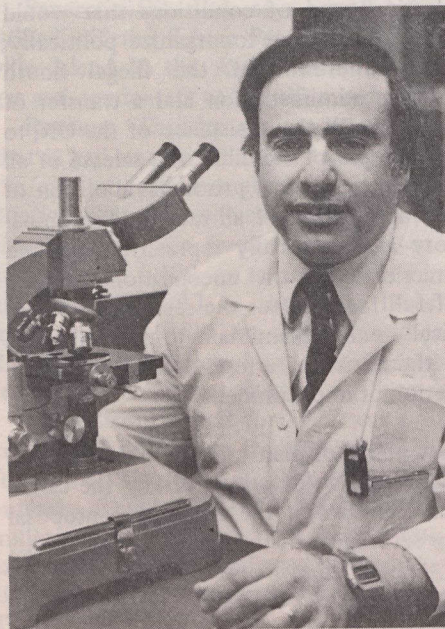
While some of the centre's extensive research will be carried out at its headquarters in the McIntyre Medical Building, on the McGill campus, its primary responsibility will be to co-ordinate work already being done by clinicians, researchers and teachers in various departments of participating hospitals and the university.

Not only will investigators have quick access to the research of their colleagues, but, more important, clinicians will have access to the most recent developments in diagnosis and therapy for their patients. "It must not become a strictly research concern," says Dr. Gold. "Our purpose is not to cure cancer in mice, but in people."

#### Financial support

The Cancer Centre will draw its finances from a number of sources, especially endowments. Some of its staff members are also on the staff of McGill University or one of its affiliated hospitals, and will con-

tinue to receive their salaries from these institutions. Others will receive research grants from such organizations as the National Cancer Institute of Canada and the Medical Research Council, following the usual application procedures. "The research in the centre will have to be competitive," says Dr. Gold, "because we



Dr. Phil Gold

won't support mediocre research. Only in rare cases will the centre provide funds to tide someone over between grants." Nor will the centre attempt to control the direction of research, as this might stifle the creativity of its members.

Dr. Gold's own research, and that of many of his McGill colleagues, has yielded valuable information over the years. He and Dr. Samuel Freedman discovered a carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), which is produced when cancer cells of the digestive system grow. CEA seeps into the blood, where it signals the presence, spread or recurrence of a cancer. High CEA levels in the blood of a patient, Dr. Gold found, can show regrowth three to 24 months after potentially-curative surgery and before any other clinical evidence appears. He is now looking for a feature common to cancer cells from all parts of the body. Knowledge of such a feature would help doctors detect cancerous growths in their earliest stages.

Dr. Gold expects the McGill Cancer Centre to attract researchers, students, residents and others from many institutions "to gain our expertise, and who will bring their own expertise along with them".