

Iran and Canada agree in principle on record trade pact

The signing of memoranda of agreements between Canadian and Iranian enterprises for \$1.3-billion worth of business was announced July 9 by Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Alastair Gillespie after the two-day first meeting of the Canada/Iran Joint Economic Commission.

Mr. Gillespie said later that he believed this was a record amount for trade with a country at one time and the figure could reach \$2 billion or more.

The agreements, which cover supply of Canadian goods and services for metal production and fabrication, marine services, forest-resource development and social infrastructure, are expected to be completed in the next five years. Several will involve joint ventures.

Negotiations were also under way with Iranian interests, said Mr. Gillespie, which could add another \$650-million worth of business in agriculture, educational infrastructure and urban

development.

The list of specific projects was established during discussions between the Trade Minister and Iranian Minister of Industry and Mines Farrokh Najmabadi, who stated after the signing ceremony: "This is only the beginning." About a dozen companies, ranging from Alcan to a small Montreal firm making a farsi-language teleprinter, are involved as prime contractors, with hundreds, perhaps thousands, of others acting as suppliers.

Mr. Gillespie said that this first meeting of the Joint Economic Commission, which was set up following his visit to Iran in April last year, had resulted in economic relations between Canada and Iran gaining substantial momentum.

More than 100 Canadian businessmen had met with the two delegations.

The Joint Commission will meet again next year in Tehran.

World whaling reduction

The International Whaling Commission has made significant progress in bringing world whale stocks under sound resource management, Canada's Whaling Commissioner Dr. W.R. Martin said in London on July 2.

Whale catches in 1976 will be reduced by about 9,000 whales, a 25 percent decrease from this year's, as a result of quotas and stock moratoria adopted at the annual meeting of the 15-member Commission. Quotas covering all stocks next year will total about 28,000 whales, compared to 37,300 this year.

"Canada is maintaining its 1972 ban on all commercial whaling and will not take advantage of a new quota allowing a catch of 90 fin whales off Newfoundland in 1976," said Dr. Martin.

This decision means no country will take fin whales off Canada's Atlantic Coast next year. Whaling in the North Atlantic is only permitted by land-based whalers. Another fin whale stock off Nova Scotia was classed by the Commission as protected by moratorium.

Quotas were established for the first time for all North Atlantic stocks. Canada expressed reservation about a quota of 550 minke whales set for the Northwest Atlantic and will seek a review of scientific data on this stock next year.

Success was also attained in establishing a total moratorium on taking of fin and sea whales in the North Pacific Ocean. A reduced quota for sperm whales in the North Pacific was also set.

"During the Commission meetings Canada consistently supported proposals believed capable of achieving the objective of reducing whale catches in 1976 to the lowest level that could be put into effect," Dr. Martin said.

"The Commission has now established a solid basis for managing whale stocks in accordance with sound resource-conservation principles and competent scientific advice," he said.

"All those concerned with the preservation of whales must welcome this result," Dr. Martin concluded.

would honour its obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

NDP elects new leader

Edward Broadbent, a 39 year-old political scientist, was elected leader of the national New Democratic Party at a convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on July 7. He replaces David Lewis, who was defeated in last year's general election.

Three other candidates contested the leadership, which took four ballots to decide. The final count was 948 for Mr. Broadbent over 658 votes for Mrs. Rosemary Brown, a member of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly. The other two contestants were Lorne Nystrom, a federal Member of Parliament, and John Harney, a Toronto university professor who was formerly an MP defeated in the 1974 election.

Mr. Broadbent, of Oshawa, Ontario, has represented the Oshawa-Whitby constituency in the House of Commons since 1968 and has been the NDP parliamentary leader since Mr. Lewis was defeated.

At a press conference following the convention, Mr. Broadbent said that he wanted to create both the organization and the policy to lift the NDP from its traditional plateau support of about 15 per cent of the national electorate. He wanted the party to win 60 seats in

the 1978 general election.

Party standings at present in the House are 140 Liberal, 95 Progressive Conservative, 16 NDP, 11 Social Credit, 1 Independent, 1 vacancy.

Canada/Korea nuclear reactor

During the first official visit by a Canadian foreign affairs minister to the Republic of Korea, June 26 and 27, Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen reviewed with Korea's Foreign Minister Kim Dong Jo, the current state of negotiations for the acquisition by the Republic of Korea of a Canadian nuclear power reactor.

Mr. MacEachen noted that Canada was committed to co-operate in the sharing of the benefits of nuclear energy under the most effective safeguards. The two ministers looked forward to the early conclusion of a bilateral safeguards agreement between Canada and Korea which would incorporate the safeguards required by Canadian policy to ensure that any assistance provided would be used solely for peaceful, non-explosive purposes.

Foreign Minister Kim assured Mr. MacEachen that the Republic of Korea