

Western summit on economic issues (Continued from P. 2)

Food requirements are another major problem today at a time when grain supplies are once again getting tight and prices are rising, to the benefit of producers but to the distress of the poorest in developing countries. Indeed, given the stock situation, production prospects and changes in demand patterns in the middle income developing countries, in the World Bank it is felt that there could be a serious food crisis in the next few years if, for example, there were two bad harvests in North America. Over time, the only real solution is to reverse the declining ability of developing countries to feed themselves, to find ways greatly to increase world-wide production....

In conclusion, it is clear that the principle focus in the Western Summits will undoubtedly remain on the major economic issues confronting them and the rest of the world, including the complex of issues known as the North-South dialogue. But political and economic issues

do not exist in watertight compartments. I cannot imagine leaders, who in their everyday work move easily from one issue to another and endeavour to see the relationship among those issues whether economic or political, artificially compartmentalizing their work in a Summit context. At the same time, an overly "political" approach raises issues such as whether the group is the right one for the problem under consideration and may cause overlap with other bodies. Moreover, Summit leaders have clearly indicated that there are a number of basic problems in our economies, such as inflation, energy, trade, on which they must focus. Yet they are conscious that the major political issues facing the West, and particularly but not only the overall relationship between East and West, cannot be divorced from questions of economic health and prosperity. The lack of consensus on such important political problems can weaken the West and, as evidenced at Venice, no other forum provides quite the same perspective for broad consideration of such subjects....

News briefs

Minister of Justice Jean Chrétien recently tabled in Parliament the Privacy Commissioner's *Study on the Use of the Social Insurance Number* in Canada. The study, which was conducted over a ten-month period, examined the use of the social insurance number and the implications of such use for the privacy of individuals within the following areas: the federal government, the federally-regulated private sector, the provinces and the municipalities.

Ontario's Ministry of Housing has made more than \$3.5 million available to

88 municipalities for a program that helps homeowners repair faulty structural and sanitary conditions or do plumbing, insulation or electrical work. The municipalities administer the money as loans at interest rates of up to 8 per cent. Recipients with incomes of \$15,500 or less after deductions can get loans for up to \$7,500.

The first gasohol plant in Manitoba should be in operation this summer. The Manitoba government is providing a \$3-million tax break to Mohawk Oil Limited of Calgary to encourage development of the plant at Minnedosa, about 48 kilometres north of Brandon.

The Ontario International Corporation, an Ontario government agency, has won two contracts worth a total of \$5 million. The Canada Power Group, a consortium of six Ontario-based electrical manufacturers, has signed contracts in Indonesia worth \$4.5 million involving the supply of complete electrical packages for three separate diesel generating stations, and in Honduras for switchgear and telecontrol equipment for a hydro generating station, worth \$500,000. Prime contractor for both projects is Federal Pioneer Limited of Toronto.

Five more Canadian communities have been named to receive approval in principle to participate in the planning stage of the Department of Employment and Immigration's new Local Economic Development Assistance (LEDA) program. The approvals are for submissions made by the Chamber of Commerce, Iles de la Madeleine, Quebec; Northern Community Development Services Corporation, Fort Frances, Ontario; Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council, Manitoba; Northwest Economic Development Council, North Battleford, Saskatchewan; and Nicola Valley Indian Administration, British Columbia.

The Quebec government-owned holding company General Investment Corporation recorded its best year ever in 1980, with profits of \$22.3 million compared with \$9.5 million in 1979. General Investment owns partly or entirely a dozen companies in Quebec. Together, including the privately owned parts, they made profits of \$48.6 million in 1980.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed a \$5 million (U.S.) line of credit with Banco de Bogota, Republic of Colombia. The line of credit will provide financing support for the sale of various Canadian goods and services particularly to small- and medium-sized businesses in Colombia. Types of goods could include printing and paper machinery, machine tools, agricultural machinery, computer parts, engraving, soldering and glasswork machinery, communications equipment and small aircraft.

Governor Paulo Salim Maluf of the State of São Paulo, Brazil, will head a delegation of some 60 businessmen and state officials on a visit to Canada from May 31 to June 7, at the invitation of Trade Minister Ed Lumley. While the principal objective of the trip will be to promote exports from Brazil, the group is also interested in joint ventures, investment and exchanges in technology.

The complete story of Manitoba's white-tailed deer, the province's most sought-after big game animal is being made available by the Manitoba government in a book, called *The White-Tailed Deer in Manitoba*. The 32-page book was written by Herb Goulden and illustrated by wildlife artist Jim Carson, both of the province's Department of Natural Resources. Copies are available free of charge from the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources, Public Information Service, Box 22, 1495 St. James Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W9.

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