

a regional institution supported by most of the island countries in the region, including Fiji, the Cook Islands, Tonga, Nauru, Western Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Kirilati.

The School of Natural Resources was constructed with \$8.03 million in grant funds from the Canadian International Development Agency and will provide space for 600 full-time and 200 other students.

The school will provide facilities for teachers and research in chemistry, physics and biology at three different levels. The preliminary level upgrades students to university admission requirement; diploma level studies in science are mandatory for a diploma in education for science teachers at elementary and lower secondary schools; and basic science graduates can enter the Fiji School of Medicine and the Fiji School of Architecture.

### Food policy for the 1980s

Agriculture Canada has released a discussion paper which will serve as the basis for establishing national agriculture and food priorities for the 1980s.

"We know that Canada could increase its food production by two-thirds before the year 2000. Rising world population and rising income in many developing countries will ensure there is a strong demand for that higher level of production," said Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan in releasing the paper.

If Canada is to achieve its food-producing potential, the public and private sectors must co-operate to remove constraints to growth, said Mr. Whelan.

The discussion paper outlines how those constraints can be overcome through developing the market, strengthening the supply base and preparing mission-oriented agricultural research.

The paper outlines the following national goals that can be met:

- annual farm cash receipts could go to \$35 billion, in 1980 dollars, by the year 2000, from the current level of \$15 billion;
- thousands of new jobs could be created in the agriculture, processing, distributing and supply sectors;
- Canada's balance of payments could be strengthened because most of the additional production would go into exports;
- Canadians would be assured of a continuous food supply; and
- each province and region would have

development opportunities in boosting production of commodities and processed foods for which it has a natural comparative advantage.

The agri-food strategy would also help Canada meet its obligations to the international community through increased food trade and agriculture development assistance.

### ILO representative visits

Francis Blanchard, Director General of the International Labour Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, visited Canada, September 27-October 5.



Francis Blanchard

During his visit, Mr. Blanchard participated in the Copenhagen Group Meeting of Ministers of Labour in Halifax and presented a major address at a meeting sponsored by the University of Montreal.

While in Ottawa, Mr. Blanchard attended a tripartite dinner which included representatives of government, labour and employers. On the following day he held a working session with representatives of the Department of External Affairs, the Canadian International Development Agency and Labour Canada to discuss technical assistance to developing countries and the North-South dialogue.

Mr. Blanchard also travelled to Alberta where he toured the syncrude plant at Fort MacMurray, visited Banff and attended a working dinner hosted by the Alberta government.

The ILO's Director General visited British Columbia where he met with representatives of organized labour and management representatives in the province.

### Funds to Red Cross

The Canadian government is providing funds to the Red Cross for assistance in El Salvador, Djibouti and Nicaragua.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is providing \$200,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross to assist victims of civil unrest in El Salvador.

The funds will help the International Red Cross to provide protection and assistance for prisoners and political detainees as well as basic food, clothing and medical care for an estimated 150,000 people.

In addition, CIDA is contributing \$82,000 to the League of Red Cross Societies (LRCS) for a medical team and a relief delegate for Djibouti, which has suffered two years of drought.

In December 1980, the Canadian Red Cross, with CIDA funding, supplied a medical team of a doctor and three nurses to work in southern Djibouti, where the greatest number of refugees is concentrated. The current contribution will allow the medical team to be replaced, while the relief delegate will oversee refugee camps on behalf of the LRCS.

Canada is also providing a \$50,000 grant to the LRCS for assistance to Indians suffering from famine in Nicaragua.

### Increased wheat exports forecasted

The Canadian Wheat Board has announced that it will strive to export a record 26 million metric tons of grain and oil seeds during the current crop year.

The board does not usually announce publicly its export targets but said it is doing so in this case because the grain handling and marketing system faces the challenge of delivering a record harvest.

The target of 26 million metric tons for the crop year ending next July 31 is worth more than \$5 billion. It is more than 13 per cent higher than previous record exports of 23 million metric tons in 1979-80 and compares with 22.5 million metric tons delivered last year. This figure includes processing grains such as flour.

The federal government has set a long term objective of increasing exports to 30 million metric tons by 1985-86. The board said it has heavy sales commitments and expects near capacity rail movement of grain to all major Canadian ports during the winter.