

Republic Day

In recognition of the thirty-eighth anniversary of India's Republic Day, Bob Pennock (P.C., Etobicoke North) extended good wishes to India and paid tribute to the many Canadians of Indian origin for their "tremendous contribution to Canada" (*Hansard*, January 26). (Also see CSIS, Air India, in Policy section in this issue.)

Indonesia

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) signed a \$19.25 million agreement with Vancouver-based Simon Fraser University to undertake a university development project in the Eastern Islands of Indonesia. The 5-year project will provide fellowships for study in Canada, short courses, technical assistance, provision of agreement and teaching and research materials and project management support.

Simon Fraser will concentrate its efforts on three universities in the northern portion of the Eastern Islands, with assistance to five others. The project will also promote links between Canadian and Indonesian universities which will continue after the CIDA assistance is finished (*CIDA Communiqué*, December 23).

Iraq

A senior vice-president of Canadair Ltd. was indicted in the United States over an alleged plot to sell combat helicopters and anti-tank weapons to Iraq. US Customs agent Jim Kilfoil said Montreal resident and former Hughes Helicopter executive Carl Perry, the vice-president for marketing of Canadair's Challenger executive jet, along with two Lebanese arms dealers and another former Hughes executive, were indicted in Miami. The indictment charges the four with violations of the US Arms Export Control Act (*Globe & Mail*, December 4).

Israel

Extradition

Ontario and federal officials began work on extradition proceedings against Avi Dobzinsky, who faced a \$3 million fraud charge in relation to a grant from IDEA Corporation. Ontario Attorney General Ian Scott confirmed that officials hoped Dobzinsky could be brought back from Israel to face charges in Ontario. Dobzinsky, whose company, WYDA Systems Ltd., received the IDEA grant, was charged November 16 with one count of fraud over \$1,000 and one count of uttering a forged document (*Toronto Star*, January 8).

Visit by Canadian Farmers

A group of five farmers from the Mirabel area and members of the Union des Producteurs Agricoles took a month-long trip to Israel, as a result of which they gained valuable insight into the sale of Holsteins to the African nation

of Cameroon. The story reported in the *Globe & Mail* on January 28 prompted a question in the Commons on the same day from Don Boudria (Liberal, Glengarry—Prescott—Russell) who wanted to know about the validity of federal funds belonging to Canada Lands Ltd. being used to take a trip to Israel. The Public Works Minister was reported as having told the reporter that such trips have regularly been taken and have resulted in promotion of the agricultural, industrial and commercial renewal of the Mirabel area.

West Bank and Gaza

The disturbances in the Israeli-occupied territories of West Bank and Gaza dominated the political discussion on securing a solution to the Palestinian question. Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark, in reply to a question from Bob Corbett (P.C., Fundy-Royal) on the violence in the occupied territories, said "we have expressed our concern to the Government of Israel and will continue to do that" (*Hansard*, December 15).

The *Globe & Mail* of December 24 carried a story which quoted from what the paper referred to as a letter dated December 21 to the Saudi Arabian ambassador from Marc Brault, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Africa and Middle East Branch of the Department of External Affairs. According to the story, the letter informed the ambassador that Mr. Brault "personally conveyed Canada's 'profound concern' to the government of Israel 'at a very senior level.'" The letter mentioned "We have repeatedly reminded Israeli authorities of their responsibility to conform to internationally established standards of conduct. We have especially underlined the requirement to limit the use of force to a level proportionate to what is needed in the circumstances, and we have strongly urged restraint."

In the excerpts aired on December 23 in advance of his year-end television interview with CBC, Prime Minister Mulroney was asked, "Do you feel that the Israelis are violating human rights by the way they are handling this situation in the occupied territories?" The Prime Minister responded, "No. I think the Israelis are in an extremely difficult situation, a historically difficult situation, and are showing restraint." On pursuing the question, the correspondent asked how did the situation in the occupied territories "differ from the kind of situation we have seen in South Africa, because a number of the Palestinian leaders say that they are no better off than the blacks are in South Africa?" The Prime Minister replied, "Well that, of course, is absolutely false. Anyone who knows anything about the situation in the Middle East recognizes that, while there is a tragedy on one hand and extreme difficulties on the other, any comparison of what the government of Israel has done, with the Government of South Africa, is false and odious and should never be mentioned in the same breath. Israel is a democracy and one under constant siege in the Middle East. There is no comparison in my mind. Others may make the comparison, but, I assure you, I do not" (CBC Television Transcript, December 21).

A Progressive Conservative MP, Dr. Alex Kindy (Calgary East), dissociated himself from the Prime Minister's remarks, as did PC Senator Heath Macquarrie in a letter to the Prime Minister (*Ottawa Citizen*, January 12).