

December 5, 1979), announced on December 18 that he would lead his party in the February election.

Mr. Trudeau said it was "the single most difficult personal decision I have ever made". "My strongest desire," he said, "was to leave politics and raise my family in Montreal."

Mr. Trudeau said he had accepted the strong appeal of his party's caucus and executive in arriving at his decision and, if elected, he would form a new government. After two days of long consultation with friends and colleagues, he had decided that because the Government had been defeated and because Canada faced most serious problems, it was his duty to accept the draft of his party. "That duty was stronger even than my desire to continue with my plan to re-enter private life."

The Liberal leader accused the Clark Government of lost time and failure to deal with Canada's economic problems.

"Their budget of last week was their answer to the recession," which, he claimed, was to be paid for by low- and middle-income Canadians — "those who

could least afford the cost would bear the burden".

Attention to the West

Mr. Trudeau said that his party would make a special effort to gain support in Western Canada. "Since 1958, Westerners have not expressed confidence that our party could give adequate attention to their legitimate concerns...as a result for more than 20 years, we have suffered electoral losses in the West."

He said that every national government needed strong representation from all parts of the country and that he wanted Western Canadians not only to feel, but to be fully involved in the continuing nation-building of Canada.

In concluding his statement, Mr. Trudeau promised: "This is without question the last election in which I will run...my intention would be to have the party select a new leader well before the next election."

"It was not my desire to lead again," he said, "but my colleagues and I have seen it was my duty. I will serve with all my energy, with all my ability...."

Commonwealth study conference

The Duke of Edinburgh's Fifth Commonwealth Study Conference, designed to improve understanding between management and workers, will be held in Canada, beginning May 17, 1980.

The meetings, starting at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, will be the second such conference bearing Prince Philip's name to be held in Canada. About 300 representatives from Commonwealth countries have been invited to attend.

The conference, financed by business, labour and industry, will form about 20 study groups which will visit a number of Canadian communities for discussions with management, trade union and community representatives before reporting to the closing session in Quebec.

Other meetings of this type have been held in Britain, Canada and Australia. They take place every six years.

Prince Philip, who attended conference planning sessions in Montreal and Calgary in October, said he hoped that when delegates returned to their countries, "the quality of their decision-making will be improved by the experience they've had looking around Canada".

Workshops for handicapped studied

Canada will undertake an extensive survey on the industrial and commercial potential of rehabilitation workshops for the handicapped, Roch LaSalle, Minister of Supply and Services, announced recently.

The objective of the two-year, \$450,000 study will be to identify the kinds of industrial and commercial work that various types of handicapped people can carry out.

"Once these capabilities have been identified," Mr. LaSalle said, "the next step will be the establishment of programs to develop skills to the point where management of rehabilitation workshops will be in a position to take on contracts to supply government and private sector markets."

The study, to be carried out in three phases, will include developing a complete inventory of all rehabilitation workshops in Canada and assessing such factors as the physical facilities and equipment; the nature of the handicapped clientele and the products produced. It will also include a review of the systems developed in the United States, Britain, Denmark the Netherlands and Sweden.

NATO calls for release of hostages in Iran

The Foreign Ministers and representatives of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America meeting in Brussels on December 13, 1979, reviewed the grave situation created by the occupation of the Embassy of the United States of America in Tehran and the holding of members of its staff as hostages in flagrant violation of international law and human rights.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization representatives reaffirmed their countries' respect for the independence of other states and the recognition of the right of all peoples to chart their own political, economic and social course. They have no desire to intervene in Iran's internal affairs.

They emphasized that the taking of hostages, for any motive whatsoever, was totally unacceptable and must be firmly opposed by the international community as a whole.

The governments of the above-mentioned countries urgently call upon the Iranian authorities immediately to release unharmed all the United States' Embassy staff members in Tehran and to allow them to return to their country.

Discoveries would slow down oil sands development

If optimistic predictions about huge new Canadian oil discoveries were realized, Canada would be able to slow down costly development of Alberta's oil sands, the chairman of the National Energy Board says.

J.G. Stabback said that oil sands plants, which currently cost about \$5 billion for 100,000 barrels daily capacity, are extremely expensive.

"Arctic oil, even with the associated high costs, would have a lower unit cost than the next generation of oil sands plants," he said.

If large discoveries were made both off Labrador and in the Arctic, it is unlikely that either one would be ignored while the other is exploited, he said. "It would get to market one way or the other."