

Delegation at NATO meeting

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan recently led a Canadian delegation to the regular Fall Ministerial Session of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels, Belgium, December 11-12.

The foreign ministers of the countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) met at a time when the cohesion of the Alliance and its capability for deterrence and defence seemed all the more important for stability in Europe and world peace.

Attention at the Brussels meeting focused on the present state of East-West relations in the light of the continuing Soviet presence in Afghanistan, prospects for the CSCE Follow-up Meeting in Madrid, and close consultation and cooperation among the NATO allies on matters relating to their common interests, bearing in mind that these interests can be affected by the troubled situation in other parts of the world.

Christmas cards of yesteryear on new postage stamps

The first Canadian-designed Christmas cards have been reproduced on this year's Yuletide postage stamps.

"This year's Christmas stamps are especially beautiful because they are reproductions of some of the first Christmas cards produced in this country," said Postmaster-General André Ouellette. "As such they can serve both as postage and bearers of good tidings."

In 1931, artist A.Y. Jackson convinced William E. Coultts, the Toronto greeting card magnate, to create a series of cards in typical Canadian style. Mr. Coultts commissioned 26 Canadian artists, including members of the Group of Seven, and paid them \$25 for each design.



The layout design and typography for this stamp issue were done by Yvon Laroche of Montreal. Ashton-Potter Limited of Toronto has printed 95 million of the 15-cent stamps, 65 million of the 17-cent stamps and 19 million of the 35-cent stamps in four-colour lithography.

Ski team does well in World Cup

The Canadian men's downhill ski team opened their World Cup season recently in Val d'Isère, posting one of the best team results in World Cup history when five of the team's skiers placed in the top seven placings.

Austrian Uli Speiss won the downhill but the Canadian team led by Calgary's Ken Read filled the next four spots, an unprecedented feat in international skiing.

Read of Calgary was followed by Steve Podborski, 23, of Toronto; Chris Kent, 19, of Calgary; and Dave Irwin, 26, of Vernon, British Columbia. David Murray, 27, of Whistler, British Columbia finished in seventh position.

Speiss raced down the shortened 3,250-metre course in 2:00.15 followed by Read at 2:00.52, Podborski, 2:00.71, Kent, 2:01.24 and Irwin 2:01.33. Murray's time was 2:01.81.

In women's skiing at Val d'Isère, Kathy Kreiner of Timmins, Ontario,

finished second behind Marie-Thérèse Nadig of Switzerland in the downhill, the opening event of the World Cup ski season.

Kreiner, 23, who won an Olympic gold medal in the giant slalom in 1976 at Innsbruck, Austria, finished the 3,298-metre course in 1:34.07. Kreiner is racing as an independent, although she is listed as a member of the Canadian women's ski team for official entry purposes.

Cod catches to end

Canada and France have reached agreement on the maximum annual cod catches French vessels will be permitted to take in the Gulf of St. Lawrence until May 15, 1986, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan and Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Roméo LeBlanc have announced. Beyond the 1986 date, vessels from Metropolitan France will no longer be permitted to fish in the Gulf.

The agreement reached will limit French catches of Gulf-based cod stocks to an annual maximum of 20,500 metric tons for the period 1981-1986. This limit may be reduced if total allowable catch limits for the two Gulf-based cod stocks are reduced below current levels. However, this is not foreseen as likely. (The French limit for 1980 was 20,540 metric tons and for 1979 20,675.)

The agreement also gives Canada the option to require the French vessels to take up to 8,500 metric tons of their annual entitlement from the southern Gulf cod stock, with a view to sharing the burden of the French fishery equitably between Canadian fishermen who fish in the north and those who fish in the south.

"The 1972 agreement was very unclear regarding quantification of French fishing rights up to 1986," Dr. MacGuigan said. "The 1980 agreement settles that issue, and should contribute to the furtherance of the good relations we have with France."

Mr. LeBlanc pointed out that the agreement ensures that further development of the Gulf cod stocks will be for the benefit of Canada. The stocks are rebuilding and it is expected that over the next six years total allowable catches will be well above the 1980 levels of 75,000 metric tons for the northern Gulf cod stock, and 54,000 metric tons for the southern stock.



The Christmas card design used on the 17-cent stamp is by Joseph Sydney Hallam, who was born in Manchester, England, in 1898 and settled in Toronto in 1910. His illustration shows a *Sleigh Ride*, a popular winter pastime before roads were swept bare for the automobile. Frank Charles Hennessey, whose work appears on the 15-cent stamp, was born in Ottawa in 1894. His contribution to the greeting card series is called *Christmas Morning* and shows the inhabitants of a Gatineau village on their way to church. The Christmas card illustration used on the 35-cent stamp is by Kathleen Morris, who was born in Montreal in 1893. For the 1931 card series she provided *McGill Cab Stand*, a nostalgic view of old Montreal in winter.