

Southern Africa which was held in Ottawa May 7 to 9. At the conference, South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) chief negotiator Hedipo Hamutenya accused Canada of taking part in an alleged US-South African plan "aimed at ensuring continued illegal South African control of Namibia" (*The Citizen*, May 10). Canada, along with the US, Britain, France and West Germany, formed the contact group in 1977 to negotiate South Africa's withdrawal from mineral-rich Namibia. At the Ottawa conference, Mr. Hamutenya repeatedly charged that the contact group had been supporting South African interests by proposing an electoral system for Namibia which would block SWAPO from obtaining the two-thirds majority required for constitutional change, the *Citizen* reported.

NDP foreign affairs critic Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam) asked External Affairs Minister Mark MacGuigan in the House of Commons May 11 to explain why Canada has not protested what she viewed as the unreasonable electoral proposals suggested by the US and South Africa. She told the House that the electoral systems proposed were "contrary to what we should be pressing for in the contact group." SWAPO is only willing to accept a one-person, one-vote electoral system. Mr. MacGuigan responded by saying that while there have been difficulties finding an acceptable electoral system for Namibia, there has been no bargaining in bad faith "on the part of South Africa, and of course not on the part of the United States."

Parliamentarians for World Order

A delegation of five Parliamentarians for World Order, which is a UN-based organization representing twenty-six countries concerned with world peace, released proposals in early May at the end of a week of meetings with government officials in Moscow and Washington. The parliamentarians' chairman, Canadian MP Douglas Roche (P.C., Edmonton South) presented a formal report to the United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The report called for a freeze on production of nuclear weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union, followed by negotiations toward global arms reductions.

UNSSOD II

Canada's position to be taken to the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament between June 7 and July 9 was widely debated in Canada during April and May as disarmament issues became more prominent. (See this issue, POLICY-Defence.) Prime Minister Trudeau and other government representatives will attend the session, along with civil servants and a delegation of fifteen representatives of various non-government organizations that have been active in the disarmament debates (*Toronto Star*, May 8).

Canada's disarmament ambassador, Arthur Menzies, will represent Canada in international negotiations. A *Toronto Star* report May 8 described Mr. Menzies' job as the coordinating of various government policies while keeping in touch with the "views of a growing number of Canadians who are concerned about disarmament." Mr. Menzies said in the *Star* interview that the Canadian government can

only work behind the scenes to "try to influence the two superpowers to get back to the bargaining table and to have confidence in each other."

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Regional Development Meeting in Stockholm

Canada joined other Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries in Stockholm, Sweden on April 17 to discuss informally regional development policies. Herb Gray, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Regional Economic Expansion represented Canada and co-chaired the one-and-a-half day meeting (Industry, Trade and Commerce news release, April 19).

Ministerial Meeting in Paris

Allan MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and Ed Lumley, Minister of State for International Trade, attended a meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level of the OECD on behalf of Canada in Paris May 10 and 11. The meeting provided an opportunity for finance and trade ministers from the OECD member countries to review the world economic situation and to identify the main elements of appropriate policy responses (External Affairs press release, May 3).

In a speech delivered at the meeting May 10, Mr. MacEachen focussed on the economic recession facing the industrial world. The way to strengthen economies without undermining the fight against inflation is through a reduction in real interest rates in the United States, MacEachen told other OECD ministerial representatives. He said that Washington should reduce its federal deficit so that interest rates in that country can come down, and in turn assist all governments in resisting the pressures for import protectionism resulting from rising unemployment.

Figures released on May 7 had shown Canada's unemployment rate at a post-depression record high. Mr. MacEachen attacked US interest rates in the House of Commons that day, saying that there are limits to what other countries can do "while the key economic solution rests with the main economic partner we all have," the United States.

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Seal Ban Resolution Questioned

In response to a resolution by the European Parliament March 11 to recommend to the European Commission that the EEC ban seal product imports, the Canadian Government May 17 proposed to the European Commission