

Salute to pioneer worker of international drug control

Monique Bégin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, paid tribute on February 14 to the memory of a famous Canadian, the Episcopalian Bishop Charles Henry Brent, in particular for his work in the area of international narcotics control.

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Bishop's death and the seventieth anniversary of the first international meeting on narcotics at Shanghai, Mrs. Bégin joined the U.S. authorities and the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in honouring him.

Bishop Brent, a native of Newcastle, Ontario, went to the United States after his ordination in 1887. Aware of the opium problem from the beginning of his episcopate as missionary bishop of the Episcopalian Church in the Philippines, he realized the importance of a form of international control. His desire to participate in the solution to this problem led to his becoming chairman of the first international meeting on narcotics at Shanghai in 1909, as well as being the representative of the United States (he had taken out U.S. citizenship by then).

In 1911, he headed the U.S. delegation to the second international meeting on narcotics at The Hague and became its chairman in 1912. He died in Switzerland in 1929 and is buried there.

To commemorate the two anniversaries connected with Bishop Brent, two plaques will be unveiled soon: one on his grave at Lausanne by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and the other at Newcastle, Ontario, by the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

New chairman another Canadian

The recently-elected chairman of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs is Dr. Donald M. Smith of the Department of Health and Welfare. Dr. Smith, the senior scientist in the Intergovernmental and International Affairs Branch, has led the Canadian delegation to the Commission for the past seven years. He has been acting chairman and has helped to prepare an important document on strategy of international control of drugs at the request of the United Nations General Assembly.

St. Lucia independence

Canadian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Paul Martin, represented Canada at the independence celebrations of St. Lucia on February 22. One of Canada's naval vessels, HMCS *Nipigon*, also there from February 20-23, took part in the celebrations.

St. Lucia has been one of the West Indies Associated States since their formation in March 1967.

As is customary on such an occasion, an independence gift of Canadian books and films was presented on behalf of the Canadian Government to Premier John Compton of St. Lucia.

Science grants

Grants totalling \$4.8 million in support of university research in three areas — energy, environmental toxicology and oceans, have been awarded by the National Research Council. The awards bring to approximately \$7.4 million, the total amount awarded under the Strategic Grants Program for the current fiscal year.

The grants provide university researchers with an opportunity to use the scientific knowledge they have developed through the Council's basic scholarships and grants programs in addressing problems of national interest and in exploiting advances in science and technology to the socio-economic advantage of Canada.

The following examples of strategic grants awarded in this recent competition provide an indication of the nature of the research carried out.

- A grant of \$29,300 for 1978-79 has been awarded to researchers at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, to investigate ways of speeding up the conversion of plant and animal residues to gas, oil and coal.

- A strategic grant in the amount of \$10,000 for 1978-79 has been awarded to researchers at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, who are investigating the possibility of using fibre optics in a prototype ocean telemetry cable to replace existing technology.

- A grant of \$260,000 for 1978-79 is funding a number of researchers at INRS-Energie (Varenes) and the University of Montreal, who are actively involved in various aspects of fusion energy research. They will participate in a major research

effort being initiated by a consortium (of industry, Hydro-Quebec and universities) to design a major facility for fusion research in Canada.

- A major group effort by researchers at the University of British Columbia is supported by a 1978-79 strategic grant in the amount of \$63,000 to study the chemical interactions of the oceans, which could lead to a better understanding of marine food webs and the distribution of the various species in an ocean environment.

- A 1978-79 strategic grant of \$100,000 has been awarded to researchers at the University of Sherbrooke, Quebec, who are examining the possibility of altering and reducing the toxicity of asbestos fibres to man while at the same time retaining their mechanical properties (i.e. so that asbestos fibres may still be used in brake linings).

Ontario/Quebec tourism agreement

Simultaneous announcements in Toronto and Quebec City on February 14 marked the start of the most far-reaching co-operative tourism agreement undertaken between Ontario and Quebec.

The agreement, reached between Ontario Industry and Tourism Minister Larry Grossman and Quebec Tourism, Fish and Game Minister Yves Duhaime, outlines a shared cost, international tourism campaign aimed at increasing the number and length of stay of visitors to the two provinces. It is expected that the venture will generate an increase in tourism revenue to help offset the national tourism deficit.

Co-operative efforts between Ontario and Quebec in the past have met with great success. Tourism is an industry of prime importance to both provinces. A minimum of \$2 million will be invested by each before the agreement expires March 31, 1982.

Under the agreement, development and expansion of tourism markets in Japan, Britain, Western Europe, the United States and Canada will be tackled by both Ontario and Quebec. Tourism consultants from both provinces will work together to co-ordinate promotional activities and conduct seminars with travel agents, transportation companies, hoteliers and tour operators.

In addition, joint promotion missions with members drawn from both provinces' governments and tourism industries will take place in target markets.