

SIGNPOSTS

the Centre recently received a \$95,000 grant from the Max Bell Foundation to underwrite further research. This is expected to result in a series of monographs being published several times a year.

OTTAWA — Creation of a Centre for Canadian-Soviet Studies at Carleton University is being underwritten by a \$285,000 grant from the Toronto-based Canadian Donner Foundation. Among other things, the grant will fund academics' trips to the Soviet Union and the hiring of a research co-ordinator, according to Prof. Larry Black, head of the university's Institute for Soviet and East European Studies. An initial project for the centre will be a bibliography of what Prof. Black says is 'just about everything the Soviets write about us.'

BUCHAREST — Canada's ambassador to Romania, Saul Grey, has opened diplomatic relations with the National Salvation Front (NSF), the movement that was instrumental in bringing down Nicolae Ceausescu's dictatorship. Unlike other countries, Canada recognizes states rather than administrations, so no formal diplomatic recognition of the new regime was necessary. 'Reports from our embassy ... as well as news reports, give us some cause for optimism', Mr. Clark said in Ottawa of the ongoing developments in Romania. 'We hope this means that democratic values, including due process, will soon prevail as Romania emerges from a revolutionary condition to a more stable situation.'

OTTAWA — Most of the Canadian Forces personnel deployed to Namibia as part of a multinational peacekeeping group in anticipation of the country's recent elections are back in Canada. 'It is most encouraging to see a mission completed on time and within budget', National Defence Minister Bill McKnight commented as he greeted the logistics personnel who were assigned to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG). Stable political conditions in the aftermath of the election permitted the start of a phased withdrawal of military personnel before UNTAG's mandate expired in March. Nearly 500 Canadian troops served in two rotations with the Canadian contingent, peaking

at 260. Only a couple of dozen Canadian Forces personnel and 100 members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are staying on to the end of next month.

LONDON — Petro-Canada Chairman Bill Hopper has been named to the 13-member international advisory board that will guide the new Centre for Global Energy established by Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the former Saudi Arabian oil minister. Canada has resisted suggestions that it become involved in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, but Sheikh Yamani's new group is seen as walking a politically safe if challenging line. It is expected to bridge the institutional gap between OPEC and the UN's International Energy Agency by promoting study of medium and long-term developments in the world markets. 'International co-operation between multinational companies, the consuming countries' governments and OPEC producers, particularly in the Gulf, is essential and should be fostered by all means possible,' a spokesman for the Sheikh said at the Centre's mid-January inauguration. The first self-assigned task of the new body is an assessment of developments in Eastern Europe and their implications for the global energy balance.

TORONTO — 'Canada will need to look increasingly to offshore markets for export growth and opportunities ... as global imbalances diminish in the future and as the United States' demand for imports slows,' according to the latest annual review from the C.D. Howe Institute. 'An aggressive trade policy should help, by gaining ... increased and secure access to those markets. In so doing, it will lay a more certain foundation on which to meet future challenges.' Copies of the review, *Getting It Right*, are available from bookstores that normally handle government publications.

OTTAWA — Canadians should see more of how MPs conduct their business on a day-to-day basis if recommendations by a House of Commons committee are adopted. The committee is proposing not only that TV cameras be permitted in committee hearings but also that there should be fewer restrictions on how the Commons itself is

shown on the parliamentary channels available on cable. 'The public has a right to see and understand how its elected representatives work and how its laws are passed', says committee chairman Chuck Cook (PC—North Vancouver, B.C.). Current coverage is limited to a tight focus on the MP who is speaking at any given time, a process that advocates of a more open approach say robs the coverage of much of its vitality. Although Commons coverage is now routine after blazing the trail in western democracies, cameras are still banned from committees apart from a couple of isolated experiments, but the committee proposes that two existing hearing rooms should be permanently wired for broadcast and that cameras should be permitted into all hearings unless specifically excluded by the committee.

OTTAWA — The federal government has set up a joint committee with the private sector to advise the government on how to tackle money laundering related to the narcotics trade. Chaired by Minister of State (Finance) Gilles Loiseau, it will 'assess existing measures and ... look at new ideas for increasing the effectiveness of our fight.' Canada has anti-laundering legislation under the umbrella of a package of Criminal Code and related amendments passed by Parliament as Bill C-61 in September, 1988. It also is participating in an international task force established at last year's Economic Summit. Officials from the departments of Finance, External Affairs, Solicitor-General as well as the RCMP and the Superintendent of Financial Institutions are involved in the committee along with senior representatives of the banking and other financial institutions and the insurance and investment sectors.

SAN JUAN — The Feb. 2 official opening by Trade Minister Crosbie of a new satellite trade office in the Puerto Rican capital was the third in two weeks as Canada stepped up its campaign to broaden export opportunities. He also opened one Jan. 25 in San Diego and then another in Miami Jan. 31. They bring to 27 the total number of Canadian trade offices in the United States and its territories.

PRIORITIES

External Affairs and Trade Begins Internal Review

It is more than two months since Treasury Board President Robert de Cotret unveiled a broad 'expenditure reduction initiative' that included \$70 million off the External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC) budget over the next four years. In response, the department launched a review of its operations. This review is based on work already begun as part of its long-range corporate strategy, *Preparing for the 1990s: The Management Challenge*, which emphasized three vital elements — relevant programmes and services, excellence in management, and leadership. A summary provided by EAITC says current initiatives should ensure that short-term measures will fit into a longer-term strategic plan. All areas are being looked at in a search for options and approaches to programme and service delivery that are at once practical and creative.

Seven initiatives are targeted for completion by June 1: (a) a review of headquarters organization; (b) a special review of operations at the largest missions, principally Washington and London; (c) studies of how the delivery of individual programmes and services can be updated to deal with the environment of the 1990s, including a look at alternate delivery mechanisms and the potential for cost recovery; (d) a review of the department's administrative functions, structure and processes; (e) preparing recommendations on what should be the nature of Canada's operations abroad in the 1990s; (f) a separate examination of certain personnel and related policies; and (g) a cabinet-ordered review of the level of grants and contributions.

'Because the department recognizes that this type of fundamental examination must be a collaborative effort to be

successful, special efforts are being made to reach out to staff at all levels for their involvement and input into the process,' the summary states. 'Working groups are under way throughout the department, focus groups with employees are planned, suggestions are being sought from all employees here and abroad and special incentives are being introduced.' Incentives might seem excessive in that staff essentially would only be doing their jobs but a spokesman explains that the extra inducement is designed to encourage participation by employees who otherwise might not come forward with constructive ideas.

The focus for the next three months or so will be what is described as 'a reshaping of the department of enhanced relevance and effectiveness' with the objective of leaving it ready and able 'to meet the demands of a lean and challenging decade ahead.'

An Increasingly Urgent Need to Redefine 'Security'

In recent decades, the word security has been used in terms of preventing World War III by justifying huge investments in nuclear and conventional arms. Powerful economies incurred large deficits while global social and environmental problems went virtually unattended.

Today we see old threats disappearing and new ones emerging: global warming, waste disposal, drought and famine, and nuclear plant accidents. Although we continue to perceive an 'enemy' out there, disguised as another nation or as a different political system, this perception is gradually being replaced by realization of the emerging threat posed by human attitudes and activities in the environment.

We have begun to ask ourselves questions unthinkable by all but a few years ago. What good are military alliances at a time when the atmosphere is being eroded and our lakes and rivers contaminated? What good is protection by a Strategic Defense Initiative if it we can't protect ourselves against acid rain? Is it real or false security we pursue through our arms budgets?

Are we ready to ask ourselves 'when

are we and other nations going to stop polluting across each others' borders?' It causes immense damage while destabilizing national and continental economies. It's worth recalling the declaration by the 1972 Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in which the signatory nations conceded each other's 'sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies' only to stress that the right carries with it 'the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states.'

Having been ready for decades for Russian tanks to roll through Western Europe, having spent incomprehensibly on weaponry, having witnessed pollution of previously pristine regions such as the Arctic, we must recognize the real threat facing us. The prospect of Mutually Assured Destruction is as much environmental now as it is military. To meet it, we must give top priority to policies encompassing environmentally sustainable economic growth while stopping desertification, soil erosion, water-

contamination, and depletion of forests, grasslands and fisheries. Remedial action is not without cost but the Worldwatch Institute puts the bill for reforestation, protecting topsoil, raising energy efficiency and developing renewable energy sources at about \$774 billion over the next 10 years — just under 10% of total global military spending.

Among other things, we need to urge the United Nations Security Council to give precedence to environmental security and we should promote Article 2 of the NATO Treaty, the 'Canadian' article emphasizing the importance of non-military collaboration within NATO and with non-members. In asking others to help put our global house in order, Canada must modify its own economic policies to serve ecology and not vice versa. Spending priorities need to be readdressed and government redesigned to make all departments responsible for the environment. Furthermore, the role of the Canadian International Development Agency and the country's role in the international financial and economic institutions should be re-examined.

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