

Canada-France scientific talks

The France-Canada Joint Commission on Scientific Co-operation held its fourth meeting in Ottawa, March 17-18.

The commission, established in 1973, reviewed the scientific exchanges which have taken place between the two countries since the signing of the Cultural Agreement in 1965. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the ties between their scientific communities especially in the fields of astronomy, agriculture, renewable energy sources and medical research. They also noted agreements and arrangements concluded between research agencies such as the National Research Council of Canada and the French Centre national de la recherche scientifique and the Medical Research Council of Canada and the French Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale.

The commission identified 15 areas in which joint projects, exchanges, missions and seminars will be undertaken. The delegations agreed that priority should be given to space (remote sensing), energy (in particular energy conservation), oceanology (robotics for underwater devices), biotechnology and scientific information.

Investment in Canada to increase

Private and public investment in Canada is expected to reach \$87.41 billion in 1982, an increase of 11.4 per cent from the \$78.45 billion estimated for 1980.

In 1981 capital expenditures increased by 18.4 per cent from the 1980 total of \$66.26 billion.

In 1982 spending on construction is expected to reach \$53.38 billion, a 12.1 per cent gain over the \$47.61 billion in 1981, which in turn was 18.4 per cent above the \$40.21 billion in 1980. Residential construction during the current year is projected at \$12.99 billion down 2 per cent from last year's total of \$13.02 billion but 18.3 per cent above the \$11.01 billion in 1980.

A total of 152 700 housing starts are expected in 1982 compared with 178 000 starts in 1981 and 158 600 starts in 1980. Expenditures for non-residential buildings and engineering structures are expected to total \$40.39 billion which is 16.7 per cent above the \$34.59 billion in 1981. The 1981 figure was 18.5 per cent higher than the \$29.20 billion in 1980. Spending on machinery shows a 10.4 per cent in-

crease in 1982 to a total of \$34.03 billion. The 1981 total of \$30.83 billion was 18.4 per cent above the \$26.04 billion in 1980.

Business spending

Expected capital expenditures of the business sector indicate a 1982 total of \$63.21 billion which is 14.1 per cent above the \$55.41 billion in 1981. Last year's gain was 19.5 per cent over the \$46.38 billion in 1980. Investment in institutions and governments combined are up by 11.9 per cent in 1982 compared with an increase of 13 per cent last year.

In the business group, the transportation-communications-utilities group is expected to register the highest increase in value with a rise of \$2.94 billion, which is 18.1 per cent above the 1981 figure. Programs for electric power and pipelines dominate the sector with increases of \$1.17 billion and \$655 million respectively.

In the energy sector, mining, quarrying, petroleum and gas wells will increase 21.2 per cent reflecting in large part the \$1.77 billion (26.6 per cent) increase in the petroleum and gas group. Metal mining is expected to decline by \$101 million or 5.7 per cent from 1981, while the non-metal mining group is shown as increasing by \$343 million or 32.4 per cent.

Manufacturing investments

Manufacturing expenditures in 1982 will reach \$13.89 billion which is 12.1 per cent above the \$12.39 billion spent in 1981. The 1981 figure was 27.1 per cent higher than the 1980 total. Most of the spending is forecast to be strong in the chemicals sector in 1982 with an increase of \$667 million, (34.4 per cent). Paper products will increase by \$408 million (19.2 per cent), while petroleum and coal products will be \$379 million (61.3 per cent) and primary metals will increase to \$236 million (15.8 per cent).

In the remainder of the business sector, the spending in the trade-finance-commercial group is expected to be up by 8.3 per cent over the 1981 figure compared with 14.4 per cent in 1981. In this group, capital spending of the trade group shows a decrease of 4.6 per cent. The 1982 expectations for the agriculture and fishing group are currently shown with an increase of 5.4 per cent, marginally lower than the increase in 1981.

Social capital expenditures represented by institutions and governments, at \$11.21 billion is 11.9 per cent above the \$10 billion in 1981. Most of this increase is for provincial government departments

where the total of \$3.48 billion in 1982 is up by 16.6 per cent over the \$2.98 billion in 1981. Federal and municipal government totals will increase by 12.7 per cent and 8.5 per cent, respectively. The program for hospitals will increase by 23.8 per cent registering the largest change in the institutions group which shows an over-all advance of 10.8 per cent.

Pledges for World Food Program

Canada will contribute \$250 million to the World Food Program for 1983 and 1984.

The two-year pledge, \$125 million for each year, includes \$210 million for commodities and \$40 million in cash.

Canada has also committed \$6.5 million for 1983 and \$7 million for 1984 for commodities and related transportation costs to the International Emergency Food Reserve administered by the World Food Program.

Canada has been associated with the World Food Program since its beginning and these pledges bring Canada's total contribution to over \$1.1 billion.

In announcing the Canadian pledges at the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization World Food Program pledging conference in New York City, Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan pointed out that in addition to direct food aid, it is urgent that efforts be made to increase agricultural production, especially in low-income, food-deficit countries.

Self-sufficiency needed

"Greater self-sufficiency in food is imperative both for humanitarian reasons and as a key to world food security and world stability," said Mr. Whelan.

In 1981, 86 per cent of the World Food Program's food aid commitments were made to low-income, food-deficit countries and 80 per cent of the development projects aided by the program were in the area of agriculture and rural development. For the first time since the International Emergency Food Reserve was created in 1975, contributions have surpassed the target of 500 000 tonnes of cereal grains.

"This trend clearly shows that a volunteer reserve can operate successfully in emergencies such as earthquakes, floods and war where there is no short-term alternative to direct food aid," Mr. Whelan said.