

cultural products, we are very sensitive to the violent fluctuations in supply, demand and prices. Canada, as you all well know, is a long time supporter of commodity arrangements that involve both producers and consumers. Canada has long been a supporter of grains agreements that augment world food security. Through our stockholding practices and our food and development aid programs, we have contributed substantially to world food security. At the same time, we are participating in discussions and strongly support meaningful negotiations which would enhance food security by means of international commitments affecting production, trade and aid in grains.

However, a solution to world food security should, in our view, also deal with basic factors that lead in some years to shortages and in other years to surpluses which are damaging to producers' income and to production. One major problem is that efficient producers and exporters of grains, such as Canada, are subject to disruptive trade practices and the lack of secure and continuing access to some of the major world markets.

Towards market stability

Canada has stated at the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly that we are ready to examine positively the idea of negotiating arrangements for a wide range of products. We are prepared to consider the use of buffer stocks or other types of stockholding as a way of providing market stability. But, I add one word of caution. We are not prepared to support any commodity agreements that include economic discrimination against consumers or producers. However, along with other donors, both producers and consumers, we are prepared to look at the idea of a common fund for financing such stocks, and other proposals that are being put forth. Further consideration should be within the context of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Integrated Approach.

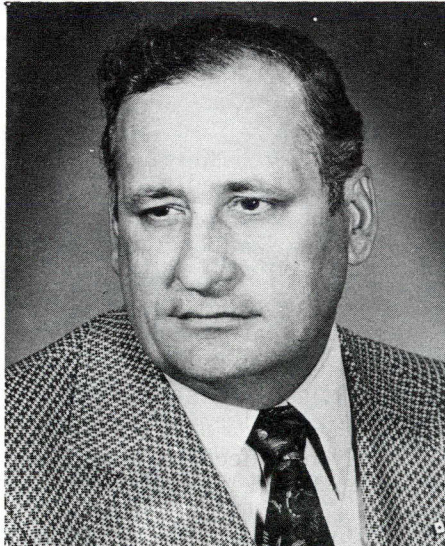
Canada has a long history of supporting the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. We fully subscribe to the Tokyo declaration on the multilateral trade negotiations which calls for "additional benefit from the negotiations for the trade of developing countries". We agree that trade liberaliza-

tion through improved access to markets is important to all countries. At present, most of Canada's imports from developing countries enter duty free. Canada has proposed the removal of all duties on tropical products by industrialized countries.

We understand the desire of developing countries to expand local food processing industries, and we will work in the direction of eliminating restrictions that may hinder this development.

Integrated approach

In respect to agriculture and rural development, Canada has made an important contribution internationally. We have placed increased emphasis on an



Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan

integrated approach to agriculture and rural development as a means of helping developing countries solve the fundamental problems of farming and fisheries production, rural depopulation and regional disparities. We also recognize the importance of concentrating development programs on small farmers and fishermen.

Canada has adhered to the Undertaking on World Food Security; we are participating in the Global Information System; and are exploring with other countries the possibility of establishing an International Grain Stockholding Scheme.

Canada is committed to providing one million tons of food grains as food aid annually for three years. This was a doubling of the Canadian obligations undertaken in the Food Aid Convention. Food aid is now approaching a value more than a quarter of our total de-

velopment expenditure *per year*.

We are also determined to achieve the official United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of our gross national product and to move to it by annual increases in our development assistance in proportion to the GNP although we reserve the right to reach the target in accordance with our internal economic realities....

Canadian representation at Spanish accession ceremonies

Canada was represented by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, Raymond J. Perrault and Mrs. Perrault, and the Canadian Ambassador to the Spanish Court, Georges Blouin and Mrs. Blouin at the accession of the King of Spain, Juan Carlos I, in Madrid, November 27.

Senator Perrault, who is a member of the Privy Council, joined the Cabinet in July 1974. His presence in Madrid marked the first official visit to Spain by a Canadian Government minister.

Independence of Surinam

In a message to the interim President of Surinam, the Governor General expressed congratulations on behalf of the Canadian people to the people of Surinam on the attainment of their independence on November 25.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen announced that Ormond Dier, Canada's High Commissioner to Guyana, would be appointed as non-resident Ambassador to Surinam. Mr. Dier represented Canada at the independence ceremonies in Paramaribo, the capital of Surinam. Prior to independence Surinam, which has a population of some 400,000, was part of the Netherlands realm. The Government will be led by Prime Minister Henk Arron.

Air Canada chief resigns

Yves Pratte, chairman and chief executive officer of Air Canada, resigned his position effective December 1. Transport Minister Otto Lang was expected to announce the name of Mr. Pratte's successor shortly. Pierre Taschereau, chairman of CN Railways, fills the position temporarily.