

Canada at MBFR negotiations

Canada is taking part in the negotiations on the mutual reduction of forces and armaments and associated measures in Central Europe, known as Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR) that began in Vienna on October 30.

George K. Grande, of the Department of External Affairs, leads the Canadian delegation, which also includes officers of his Department and the Department of National Defence.

Canada, as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, maintains forces in Central Europe. The Vienna conference is regarded as an important element in East-West negotiations that are aimed at lowering tensions and increasing co-operation in Europe.

Concern over lack of lumberjacks

Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras announced recently that the full co-operation and resources of his Department would be used to help the forestry industry resolve manpower shortages.

"Our concern rests with the reasons for high turnover and continuing shortage of forestry workers, particularly in New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia," Mr. Andras said.

Preliminary discussions concerning a forestry manpower plan, to be initiated by the pulp and paper industry, took place in March between officials of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association (CPPA) and the Department of Manpower and Immigration. A conference sponsored by the industry to accelerate planned action on October 16 in Vancouver will also include participation by the Government. Further industry-government discussions are being arranged for later this year. In 1974, the CPPA will organize a national conference on manpower planning with the full co-operation of the Department.

Manpower shortage study

To identify the basic reasons for an economically damaging shortage of manpower, recent studies were conducted in Quebec and British Columbia

by federal and provincial governments, industry and labour organizations. Mr. Andras claims that results showed the need for more progressive industrial manpower practices and action programs designed to stabilize the logging work force.

"Part of the problem," the Minister said, "is directly related to wood costs, economic expansion, increasing mechanization, and the extent to which production is integrated." For example, he pointed out, increased integration would not only result in the reduction of fibre costs, but also make the best use of resources for lumber, veneer and pulp.

"This would definitely be in the national interest and create more stable jobs in the industry," Mr. Andras said. "At the same time the work force must be upgraded to meet the higher skill-level demands of modern mechanization."

"Today's young worker will look at job opportunities in many industrial sectors and prefers employment at locations that offer more social and recreational amenities than those normally available to a woods worker," the Minister said. "In other words, the billion dollar-forest industry is faced with intense competition in the labour market, a situation that will become more critical from 1980 onwards, when the labour force is expected to stabilize."

Mr. Andras said that the Department had adopted the following position:

- industry should be encouraged to take necessary action to design and implement adequate means of attracting and retaining workers to the forest-industry sector;
- in line with rationalization being considered by the industry, major manpower adjustments must be recognized;
- plans must be made to provide for transitional changes;
- both industry and workers should make full use of the Department's programs and services, particularly the Canada Manpower Consultative Service to assist individual firms or the pulp and paper industry as a whole, to assess its manpower adjustment needs;
- that industry be urged to work closely with the Department in preparing comprehensive manpower plans that will alleviate the current shortages of loggers and turnover.

Next year's postage stamps

Postmaster General André Ouellet has announced the Canada Post Office stamp program for 1974, under which 45 issues, including two Olympic semi-postal values, will be printed.

The Olympic stamps will be in denominations of 8 cents, 10 cents and 15 cents. Both issues will feature four designs in the three denominations for a total of 12 stamps each issue. The designs, depicting physical fitness, will show Canadians in typical outdoor activities - the spring issue portraying swimming, jogging, hiking and cycling, the autumn issue skiing, skating, snowshoeing and curling.

A special issue of five stamps in June will mark 100 years of letter-carrier service in Canada.

Four centennial anniversaries are featured in the commemoratives. The City of Winnipeg's centennial will be marked with an issue on May 3. A stamp on agriculture in Canada on July 12 coincides with centenary celebrations in Guelph of the founding of the Ontario Agricultural College. The hundredth anniversary of the invention of the telephone will be marked with a commemorative on July 26. On October 9, the Post Office Department will observe the centennial of the Universal Postal Union with two commemorative stamps, which will be issued simultaneously with similar ones by every other member country of the organization.

Two other notable issues will be the April 10 commemorative depicting the World Cycling Championships that take place in Montreal on August 14, and the four Christmas values which will be issued November 1. Christmas stamps will feature reproductions of paintings by Canadian artists.

The schedule for the 1974 stamp program is: Pacific Coast Indians (January 16); Pacific Coast Indians (February 22); Olympic Semi-Postals (March 22); World Cycling Championships (April 10); Winnipeg Centennial (May 3); Centenary of Letter-Carrier Service in Canada (June 7); Agriculture in Canada (July 12); Invention of the Telephone (July 26); Multicultural series (August 28); Olympic Semi-Postals (September 23); Universal Postal Union Centennial (October 9); Christmas (November 1).