

Canada-EEC fisheries pact

Canada and the European Economic Community (EEC) signed a six-year fisheries agreement in Brussels on December 30, 1981.

The agreement, which had been under negotiation since Canada extended its fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles in 1977, was signed on behalf of Canada by Canada's Head of Mission to the European Communities Richard Tait.

The Canadian Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Roméo LeBlanc and Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan said that the agreement established a framework for bilateral fisheries co-operation between Canada and EEC member states, including co-operation in fisheries conservation and research, allocations of fish stocks and the development of commercial co-operation.

Under the agreement, the EEC will reduce tariff rates on Canadian cod, herring and redfish. This should improve the Canadian industry's competitive position in the European market in relation to its major competitors.

As part of the agreement, Canada will provide EEC vessels with guaranteed allocations from stocks that are surplus to Canadian requirements.

Anti-nausea drug for cancer patients

Canada has become the first country in the world to licence a synthetic form of the active ingredient of marijuana — tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) — for cancer patients.

Nabilone will be marketed this year by Eli Lilly Canada Incorporated of Toronto under the trade name Cesamet to centres treating cancer patients.

Thomas Da Silva, chief of the central nervous system division of the federal bureau of drugs, said that in human trials nabilone has been found "comparable" with THC in countering the nausea and vomiting caused by anti-cancer drugs.

Nabilone is described as a synthetic analogue of THC, meaning that it is a laboratory-made chemical close to, but not identical to, the chemical structure of THC.

THC accelerates heart rate and lowers blood pressure. Because nabilone is not identical to THC, it has fewer of these side effects: at doses given to patients it has no effect on heart rate and only negligible effect on blood pressure.

Because of nabilone's similarity in effect and structure to THC the synthetic drug is classified as a narcotic under the jurisdiction of the Narcotic Control Act.

Aid agreement with India

Canada and India have signed three agreements providing for \$125 million in development assistance to India. The agreements were signed in New Delhi by Marcel Massé, president of the Canadian International Development Agency and Shri R.N. Malhotra, Indian Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs.

The first of the three agreements was a \$50-million loan agreement to assist India's Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC) expand its coverage of institutional lending in rural areas. The funds, which will be disbursed from 1981-84, will directly benefit small and marginal farmers. The loan represents the fourth major Canadian contribution to the ARDC.

The second agreement signed was a \$45-million line of credit to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and to Oil India Limited for the purchase of equipment, machinery and services for oil and gas exploration and development. The line of credit, along with a previous one in 1980, are intended to assist India in reducing its vulnerability to rapidly rising imported petroleum costs and to help the country achieve greater energy self-sufficiency.

The final agreement comprised a \$30-million line of credit to assist India to improve power sector performance by increasing capacity, promoting effective operation and utilization of existing facilities and providing consulting and advisory services.

Canada will also sign two more development agreements with India before the end of this year. One agreement will provide \$9 million in canola rapeseed oil to the National Dairy Development Board while another will provide \$4 million in Canadian technical assistance for the first five-year period of a dryland agricultural research project in Hyderabad. The Canadian government has been assisting India with the project for the past ten years.

The agreements are all part of a growing Canadian development program in India. Canada has been a major participant in India's development and has contributed more than \$1.5 billion in grants and loans since 1951. Canadian bilateral assistance during the 1981-82 fiscal year is expected to reach \$52 million. About 50 per cent of Canadian development assistance to India is used for agricultural which has been identified as a prime sector in India's sixth five-year plan.

Nova Scotia trade mission delegation in Australia



Dr. James McNiven (right), Deputy Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Development, signs the guest book at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, while the university's chief librarian Eoin Wilkinson looks on. During his stay in Sydney, Dr. McNiven gave a lecture to members of the Canadian Studies Board on The Policies of Regional Economic Development in Canada. He was visiting Australia as part of a trade mission led by Nova Scotia Minister of Development Ronald Thornhill.