

Wave heights measured by new marine weather service

Environment Canada has initiated a new marine weather service called "Sea State Forecast", to forecast the height of waves on Canada's east coast.

"This new service will contribute to the safer operation of commercial fishing vessels, shipping fleets and other off-shore interests," said Environment Minister Suzanne Blais-Grenier.

The Sea State Forecast is issued twice daily from the Marine Weather Centre in Bedford, Nova Scotia and the Newfoundland Weather Centre in Gander, for the

open sea areas off the east coast.

Each forecast is valid for 24 hours and includes the expected change in wave height over the period.

The new forecast gives the combined height of wind waves and the swell for the open sea. "Swell" refers to waves which are formed at a distance and reach the forecast region as long rollers. "Wind waves" are formed by the wind in the immediate area. The regular marine forecast, which emphasizes wind, visibility and precipitation, will continue to be issued four times daily.

Canada's efforts to help revitalize the United Nations

Speaking to the Canadian committee of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on June 22, Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark said that in this year of important United Nations anniversaries — the fortieth of the signing of the Charter, the fortieth next December for UNICEF and the thirtieth for the Canadian UNICEF committee — Canada is determined to strengthen and become "more creative in revitalising the UN system". He indicated some of the past successes and failures of the UN and outlined efforts that Canada will undertake to increase its effectiveness and success.

Following are excerpts from Mr. Clark's speech:

The government is making a special effort in 1985, the UN's fortieth anniversary, to revitalize the UN. Important activities are taking place across Canada: the visit of Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar last March to Toronto, Ottawa and Quebec City; seminars and conferences on strengthening the UN; the first of what will become an annual National Model UN Assembly, organized by the UN Association in Canada a month ago in Montreal, which brought together 650 university students from across Canada; educational materials on the UN which will be distributed to schools across the country. We want to reach beyond the normal constituency of Canadians who follow and support UN issues.



Joe Clark

At the UN itself, we have been trying to mobilize, along practical lines, support for improving the effectiveness of the UN system. We have been working with a coalition of member states from all political and geographic groupings, not just in New York but also in the other UN capitals of Geneva, Vienna, Paris, Rome and Nairobi....

We shall persevere over the next few years in promoting practical and cumulative

reform of those parts of the system which are not performing effectively....

We are working to improve the effectiveness of the UN in the following ways:

- *First*, by supporting the secretary-general in his unrelenting efforts to help solve difficult political problems around the world, such as in Cyprus, Iran/Iraq, Afghanistan and, most recently, the taking of hostages in Beirut....
- *Second*, by ensuring that multilateral negotiations and discussions, under the UN, spur on and complement bilateral efforts to make progress on nuclear issues and other vital questions of arms control and disarmament.
- *Third*, by improving the UN General Assembly's performance in its consideration of political issues.... Its debates and resolutions, rather than hardening divisions, should point the way toward realistic but equitable solutions.
- *And fourth*, by exposing irresponsible management wherever it appears in the UN system, including urgently, UNESCO. We must not allow politicization to frustrate the UN's essential work.

Let us use the UN's fortieth anniversary year...to launch a process of reform of those parts of the UN system which need it. Let us celebrate the UN's strengths, such as UNICEF. But let us also address ourselves to its problems with diligence and patience, with realism and tenacity.

Agricultural aid for China

Minister for External Relations Monique Vézina recently announced the signing of two agreements valued at \$6.8 million for three Canadian institutions to help improve agricultural education and research in China.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will finance the agreements that will link Ontario's Guelph University and the University of Alberta and Olds College in Alberta with two Chinese agricultural institutions, August 1 Land Reclamation University (HALRU) and Liu He Cadre Training College (CHTC).



Monique Vézina

HALRU's graduates are agricultural professionals and scientists while Liu He trains directors and middle managers for the state farm system.

Both Chinese institutions are located in the province of Heilongjiang, which is "twinned" with Alberta.

Mrs. Vézina said that Canada is well suited to provide this assistance as Canadian prairie soils and climatic conditions are similar to those in Heilongjiang, which lies on the same latitude as Edmonton. Like Alberta, it has hot summers and cold winters, although Heilongjiang receives relatively little snow cover.

Training programs

Under the terms of the agreements, the Canadian institutions will provide a variety of training programs for personnel from the two Chinese institutions. The programs will range from short-term courses to undergraduate and graduate level programs.

Chinese professors will visit Canadian farms and universities and Canadian professors will visit HALRU and CHTC to advise on curriculum development and course planning on the management of applied research programs. Some research equipment and equipment for classrooms and laboratories will also be provided to both HALRU and Liu He.

Mrs. Vézina said that Canada recognizes the Chinese need to improve agriculture and has therefore made it one of the four sectors of concentration for CIDA's China program. CIDA is currently sponsoring several other agricultural projects in Heilongjiang province. These include projects to upgrade animal breeding technology, modernize dairy management, improve quarantine facilities, increase forage production and introduce modern seed breeding and processing techniques.