
Recognition of Guinea Bissau

Canada has recognized the Republic of Guinea Bissau and intends to establish diplomatic relations with the new state.

In making the announcement on August 12, Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen congratulated the Portuguese Government and the PAIGC on their success in reaching an agreement in principle which will contribute to the solution of a situation that has been of great international concern.

The agreement gives substance to the many statements the Portuguese Government has made regarding the recognition of the rights of the populations of its African territories to self-determination and independence. It encourages the hope that the problems of Mozambique and Angola will also be resolved in the not too distant future. Canada, which has on many occasions made its views known on these questions, supports strongly the policies of decolonization that the new Portuguese Government has expressed and now is putting into effect.

New Speaker of House

The Prime Minister has announced his intention to nominate James A. Jerome as Speaker of the House of Commons at the opening of the thirtieth Parliament on September 30.

Mr. Jerome, who replaces Lucien Lamoureux, now Canadian Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg, has been Member of Parliament for Sudbury constituency since his election to the House of Commons in 1968.

In the twenty-eighth Parliament, Mr. Jerome was Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council, and during the twenty-ninth Parliament he served as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Trade — first half year

Total Canadian exports for the first half of 1974 were \$15,109 million, up 23 per cent from \$12,264 million in the same period of 1973. The rise of 18 per cent to \$10,165 million in exports to

the United States represented 55 per cent of the total gain. The remainder of the increase was distributed over other areas, showing higher relative changes — for example, 48 per cent in the case of Japan.

With the exception of lumber (down \$170 million), and automotive and related products (down \$200 million), shipments of other commodities to the U.S. were higher in the first half of 1974. Deliveries of crude oil, natural gas and petroleum products were up \$1 billion and those of pulp and newsprint higher by \$300 million. Wheat and other crude and fabricated materials accounted for nine-tenths of the rise in exports to overseas countries. Apart from wheat and fabricated metals, shipments of metallic ores and pulp were larger to Japan and the six EEC countries, and lumber exports increased significantly to Britain.

Imports

At \$14,774 million, total imports for the first half of 1974 were 30.5 percent above \$11,304 million a year earlier. Purchases from the U.S. rose 26 per cent to \$10,230 million and made up 61 per cent of the total rise. Featured prominently in this increase were machinery and equipment (up \$600 million), and automotive and related products (up \$260 million); increases ranging from \$100-150 million were recorded for forestry products, steel materials and chemicals. Crude petroleum accounted for almost 80 per cent and 70 per cent, respectively, of the import rise from Latin America and "other countries". Automotive and machinery purchases were larger from Japan and the six EEC countries, as well as other industrial materials from the latter area. Food and crude materials represented over half of the import expansion from other Commonwealth countries. Imports of cars and machinery and equipment from Britain declined \$60 million.

The share of exports to the U.S. continued to contract from 71.2 per cent in the first half of 1972 to 70.2 per cent and 67.3 per cent in the same period of 1973 and 1974, respectively. The U.S. share of imports declined from 71.7 per cent in the first half of 1973 to 69.2 per cent in 1974, almost the same proportion as in the first half year in 1972.

Average export prices in the first

half of 1974 were more than a third above the level of the same period in 1973, while the rise in average import prices was more moderate — about a fourth. Allowing for these price changes, real imports increased over 4 per cent and the volume of exports declined 8 per cent.

Traffic survey shows up drinking/driving problem

In reviewing the preliminary results of the National Roadside Traffic Survey conducted in eight provinces from April 17 to June 15, Transport Minister Jean Marchand has expressed concern about the continuing seriousness of the drinking/driving problem in Canada.

Results of the survey, which was conducted between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. Wednesday to Saturday of each survey week, suggest that about a quarter of the drivers providing breath samples had been drinking and that a third of these drivers had blood-alcohol concentrations at or above the legal limit of .08 per cent. This means that about one in 12 drivers tested was impaired.

The use of seat belts was recorded also. Of those drivers with lap-belts available, 13 per cent were observed wearing them, while 8 per cent of those drivers with both lap and shoulder belts available were using them.

Of 7,013 drivers interviewed, 93 per cent agreed to answer a questionnaire and provide a breath sample.

The objects of the survey were:

(a) to determine the extent of the drinking/driving problem in Canada;

(b) to provide a sound data base against which changes in the behaviour of a driver who has been drinking can be interpreted more adequately; and

(c) to compare the effectiveness of various programs to overcome the problem.

These aims, as well as the basic method of the survey were agreed upon by a number of NATO member nations concerned about the increasing occurrence of alcohol-related traffic accidents in their respective countries.

Experts concerned with the drinking/driving problem will meet at the Sixth International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety in Toronto from September 8 to 13 to discuss this and related concerns.