

News briefs

Minister of State for International Trade Gerald Regan is on a 16-day mission to Hungary and the Middle East. Countries to be visited in the Middle East are Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Cyprus. The main objectives of this mission include furthering Canadian trade relations, promoting Canadian products and expertise and developing technical co-operation with various government ministries.

The Canada Oil and Gas Lands Administration has announced it has granted a Drilling Program Approval to Panarctic Oils Limited for three wells in the high Arctic. The wells will be drilled from ice platforms and each will take about 60 days to complete. The total cost of the program is estimated to be \$63 million.

Canadian Commercial Corporation has awarded contracts totalling \$5.7 million to several Canadian firms located in Quebec, Ontario and the prairie provinces for wheat flour and maize to be provided to Colombia, Nicaragua and Egypt through the World Food Program, an agency of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Payment of these contracts will come from aid funds recently provided to the World Food Program by the Canadian International Development Agency and deliveries will be completed by the end of this month.

J. Blair Seaborn has been appointed Commissioner of the International Joint Commission (IJC), a position occupied by Stuart Hodgson until January 31, 1981. Mr. Seaborn has been Deputy Minister of Environment since December 31, 1974. Born in Toronto, Ontario, Mr. Seaborn attended the University of Toronto. After graduation he joined the Department of External Affairs and has served in The Hague, Paris, Moscow and Saigon. Prior to his appointment as Deputy Minister of Environment, Mr. Seaborn served as Assistant Deputy Minister, Consumer Affairs.

Canada took the silver medal December 29 in a women's 3 x 5-kilometre relay race at an international cross-country skiing competition at Val Sasina, Italy. The Canadian team of Jennifer Walker of Ottawa, Sharon Firth of Inuvik, Northwest Territories and Monique Waterreus of Whitehorse, Yukon, finished the race in 49 minutes 01.0 seconds behind the Italian team.



Nguyen Trang plays a Vietnamese sitar for youngsters at the Ottawa Boys and Girls Club's Indochinese Cultural Festival.

Chris Mikula, The Citizen

Energy Minister Jean Chrétien has announced the appointment of Vernon L. Horte to investigate increasing construction costs of federally-regulated pipelines in Canada, and recommend practical solutions. As a one-man task force, Mr. Horte's mandate is to find ways of reducing the rate of escalation in the cost of building pipelines.

The 1982 Grey Cup game between the Edmonton Eskimos and the Toronto Argonauts attracted the largest viewing audience in the history of Canadian television, the Canadian Football League (CFL) has announced. CFL commissioner Jake Gaudaur said ratings compiled by the A.C. Neilsen company show that the November 28 contest, held at Exhibition Stadium in Toronto and won by the Eskimos 32-16, attracted 7 863 000 viewers, surpassing *Superman II* as the most popular program of any previously rated on Canadian television.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed a \$7.2-million (US) loan agreement with Nacional Financiera S.A. of Mexico to support a sale by CAE Electronics Ltd. of St. Laurent, Quebec to two Mexican airlines. The sale involves a DC-10 flight simulator of a total value of \$9.8 million (Cdn) to Mexicana de Aviacion, S.A. (Mexicana) and Aeronaves de Mexico, S.A. (Aeromexico). The simulator is being designed and manufactured at CAE's plant in St. Laurent and will be installed at Aeromexico and Mexicana's training facility in Mexico City. The order will provide some 195 person-years of employment at CAE Electronics Ltd. and its 15 major Canadian suppliers.

Gaetan Boucher set a Canadian record for the second successive day on his way to the over-all title at the national team trials and senior Olympic-style championships in Regina. Boucher clipped almost a full second off the previous Canadian best time in the men's 1 500-metre event, with his time of 2 minutes 02.44 seconds.

For \$25 an hour, John Bourdages can be the life of your party — Communist, Progressive Conservative, feminist, whatever. He even supplies the placards. Bourdages has ten years' experience in the fine art of freelance protesting. He began with a homosexual rights group in Vancouver, earning \$10 an hour. But his biggest protest was a voluntary effort against the caging of animals at the Vancouver zoo. He broke all the cages and let the animals free. "I felt sorry for them," he said. The authorities were not impressed. For the next three years, Bourdages himself was caged — in jail.

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