

### Wide-ranging documentation in French available to public servants

A three-day exhibition of special documentation in French, held last month at the Government Conference in Ottawa, has increased the awareness of public servants of the availability of specific documents printed in French, thereby reducing the cost of translation.

The exhibit, opened by Jean Chrétien, President of the Treasury Board, was also open to the public as well as public servants.

Over 1,500 books and 500 magazines published by firms in Quebec, France and Belgium, offer wide-ranging technical material in medicine, science, technology and management, which federal public servants will have access to through the co-operation of the Treasury Board and Medi-Tech-Science, publishers.

### International women's year initiatives in gear

A plan to increase action to promote change in the status of women at the community level was announced in May by Secretary of State J. Hugh Faulkner.

In a pilot project to continue the initiatives begun by the Canadian secretariat of International Women's Year, in 1975, eight consultants experienced with women's groups and community education have been hired to work for one year in eight regions across the country.

The work of the consultants, co-ordinated by the Secretary of State women's program, complements the work of the Department's field staff in 22 communities across Canada as well as the work of individual women and women's voluntary groups in promoting change

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related to the status of women. They will provide basic information and resources to the community on issues affecting the status of women and advise community groups and institutions on ways and means of organizing activities designed to stimulate action on women's issues.

In 1976-77 the women's program of the Department will continue to allocate its major resources to support the activities of women's voluntary groups.

Priority will be given to projects aimed at organizing community resources to enact legislative changes in the status of women, and help combat discriminatory practices. Emphasis will be placed on activities that contribute to the development by women of leadership and community organizing skills; the development of print and audio-visual resources on women's issues; and the greater involvement of rural and isolated women in these issues.

### News briefs

- Canada will buy 128 *Leopard* tanks and support systems from West Germany at a cost of \$159 million, announced Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen, at the NATO meeting in Oslo, last month.
- The Soviet Union has agreed to buy \$9.7-million worth of drilling equipment from manufacturers in western Canada on a trial purchase that could lead to more sales.
- Transport Minister Otto Lang has announced plans for new trains and track improvements for passenger rail service in central Canada, beginning with a \$30-million program over three years for the Quebec-Montreal route, operated by CP Rail.
- Joe Morris, a former logger from British Columbia, was re-elected president of the Canadian Labour Congress at the recent convention in Quebec City.
- Leaders of the Canadian Air Traffic Control Association may call a strike over the issue of the use of French in airspace over the province of Quebec, which has been promoted by the Federal Government. The national union opposed extension of bilingual air-traffic control throughout the province.
- Lebanese visitors and students in Canada may stay longer than they could under normal circumstances, Immigration Minister Robert Andras has announced. Lebanese visitors without relatives in Canada can stay beyond the maximum time their visas allow and would not be asked to return home "until the situation clarifies itself", said Mr. Andras.
- A fire destroyed the former United States pavilion at Expo '67 world's fair site at Montreal on May 20. The huge geodesic dome, designed by

architect Buckminster Fuller, was a familiar site to the thousands who attended Expo '67.

- Statistics Canada has reported an increase of average weekly earnings during the 12 months to last March of 13.4 per cent, bringing it to \$221.88. The February figure was \$219.62.
- Another report from Statistics Canada shows surplus trade at \$62 million during April, a sharp turnaround from the revised trade deficit of \$27 million in March and the first positive balance this year.
- A moratorium on access to Toronto's Malton Airport by additional air carriers from other countries was announced May 21 until early 1980, when a review of the situation will be undertaken. Traffic has grown to such an extent that a serious congestion problem has developed and will rapidly worsen if restrictions are not imposed, says Transport Canada.
- Reductions in government spending are expected to push down the economy of the Atlantic provinces during the next 12 months, says the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council.
- A coal seam, about 80 miles south-east of Edmonton, Alberta, will be ignited in July in an experiment to tap coal resources without mining, Norbert Berkowitz, head of fuels research for the Alberta Research Council stated. The subterranean fire in the Forestburg, Alberta region will convert the coal into a low-heat value gas that could be used as fuel for powerplants.
- British Columbians will pay 2.3 per cent more for their telephone services effective June 11. The latest rate increases by the British Columbia Telephone Co. amounts to full implementation of a 20 per cent rate increase the company sought in March 1975.