

France-Canada mixed commission

The eighth session of the France-Canada Mixed Commission, created under the terms of the France-Canada Cultural Agreement of 1965, was held in Ottawa on May 17 and 18. The Canadian and French delegations were led respectively by André Bissonnette, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Michel Fontaine, Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On the Canadian side, seven provinces, as well as the Council of Ministers of Education, took part in the sessions, together with various government departments and agencies.

Exchanges of persons and cultural promotion were the main topics discussed. Under the first, both sides agreed on an important number of exchanges aimed at strengthening working relations between French and Canadian specialists in the educational, socio-cultural and artistic fields.

In the area of culture promotion, the two delegations agreed to intensify programs of theatre tours, music and dance groups, and exhibitions. Lastly, exchange projects involving audio-visual materials and books were also discussed.

Public servants *(Continued from P. 2)*

Affairs will have moved, or commenced to move, as well.

In addition to these relocations, the Government has recently decided also to relocate the Solicitor General's Department, the Canadian Transport Commission and the Department of Regional Economic Expansion from Ottawa to Hull during this same fiscal year. The Canada Labour Relations Board, Unem-

ployment Insurance Commission, and the Department of Manpower and Immigration are scheduled to move in the 1978-79 period."

Tax agreement

With regard to the concern that had been expressed recently about the impact of income tax deductions on Ontario residents working in Quebec, National Revenue Minister Monique Bégin announced to the House that the

provincial government of Quebec had agreed to reduce income tax for federal employees. For others, including those working in the private sector, government agencies and crown corporations, the Federal Government will reduce federal tax deductions to obtain the same result. Mrs. Bégin said this arrangement would be extended to workers in the private sector in other provinces to reduce the additional tax deductions when they resided in one province and worked in another.

News briefs

- The Commons will probably sit through July to debate the northern pipeline issue and to clear other legislation on the order paper, Government House Leader MacEachen said on May 16. The Government has promised that Parliament will debate whether a Mackenzie Valley pipeline should be built. The cabinet will make a decision in late summer. The cabinet ruling will be referred to the House for acceptance or rejection.

- Prime Minister Trudeau was presented with a 50-pound Newfoundland pup on May 16 in a ceremony opening the country-wide campaign for the 1977 Canada Summer Games to be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, from August 7-19. An estimated 3,000 athletes are expected to participate. All provinces and the two territories will be represented.

- A Gallup poll, taken five months after the Province of Quebec election, shows that 71 per cent of Canadians are against Quebec separating and 15 per cent favour the move. Across the provinces, support for separation ranged from a low 7 per cent in the Atlantic provinces to a high of 17 per cent in British Columbia. Results of the poll are based on 1,014 personal, in-home interviews with persons 18 years of age or over.

- Canada has contributed \$30,000 to the United Nations Secretariat to obtain the services of Judge Lorne Stewart of Toronto to prepare a background paper on youth justice. Youth justice will be one of the subjects discussed at the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders which Canada will attend in

Sydney, Australia, in 1980.

- The National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa is presenting Kosmos '77, the largest Soviet space exhibition ever to leave the Soviet Union. The exhibition, with the motto "Outer space in the service of peace", was put together by the Soviet Union to mark the twentieth anniversary of the launching into orbit of the world's first Sputnik. It was prepared to acquaint visitors with the Soviet Union's space exploration program reflecting its main stages and directions. Kosmos '77 traces the history of the Soviet space program from before *Sputnik I* to the present day.

- Defence Minister Barney Danson attended the spring session of NATO's Defence Planning Committee in Brussels on May 17 and 18. He then accompanied West German Defence Minister Herr Leber to Bonn for discussions, following which the two ministers visited at Lahr.

- On a seasonally-adjusted basis, 111,000 new jobs have been created since last December, with most occurring in the service industries, public administration and wholesale and retail trade sectors. But the unemployment rate rose from 7.5 per cent in December to 8.3 per cent in April because the labour force grew at a much faster rate than employment. Total labour force, both employed and unemployed persons, rose by 209,000 to 10,533,000 on a seasonally-adjusted basis during the past four months.

- Five Canadian automobile insurance companies have received Anti-Inflation Board approval for their plans to return \$6 million to customers through discounts on car insurance premiums over a 12-month period.

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.