

International food standards

International co-operation on problems that confront all countries often seems out of reach. There is an example, however, of successful international co-operation on standards governing one of man's most basic needs — food.

The Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization of the United Nations, recognizing that differing food standards could prevent the free flow of commodities between countries, recommended the establishment of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 1962 to implement the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program.

There are now 115 member countries in the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Standards and codes of practice are negotiated among the member countries and then submitted to each of them for acceptance.

A country may give the recommended commodity standards full acceptance, acceptance with specified deviation, or target acceptance for some specified future date.

The Codex Commission has established 26 subsidiary bodies to deal with general policy, specific groups of food and matters relevant to the work of the commodity committees. These bodies, each hosted by a different country, meet either annually or on an 18-month cycle. Canada is host for the Codex Committee on Food Labelling.

Each country also has representatives on the subsidiary bodies that are relevant to its interests. In the case of Canada, Agriculture, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Environment, Health and Welfare, and Industry, Trade and Commerce are given primary responsibility for those committees whose subject matter falls largely under their jurisdiction.

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 Noticiero de Canadá.

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

News briefs

A total of 25,557 immigrants came to Canada during the first three months of 1977. The breakdown by immigrant class changed little from the first quarter of last year. Sponsored dependents made up 42.7 per cent of total landings while nominated relatives accounted for 25.6 per cent and independent immigrants 31.7 per cent. Ontario, which maintained its lead as province of destination, received 12,241 immigrants, or 47.9 per cent of the total movement. Quebec was next with 4,630, or 18.1 per cent, followed by British Columbia with 13.2 per cent.

Treasury Board and public service union officials, now negotiating major changes in the Government's bilingualism programs, said recently that all second language training of government employees is expected to end by 1983. A new policy to be announced in September is expected to include these elements: the number of government jobs designated as bilingual will be reduced from the present level of 69,014 to as low as 42,000; unilingual civil servants will not be allowed to apply for the bilingual positions, which will be open only to those competent in both English and French; the 533 language training classrooms, costing \$65.6 million to operate this year, will be closed over the next five to six years.

Dr. W. Bennett Lewis of Queen's University, Kingston, who is widely honoured by universities in Canada, the United States and abroad, received an honorary degree this summer from the University of Birmingham in England. The university conferred the honorary doctor of science degree at convocation ceremonies, July 14. Dr. Lewis, an internationally-known nuclear scientist, addressed the gathering. Known as the father of the CANDU reactor, Professor Lewis received the Outstanding Achievement Award of the Public Service of Canada in 1966 for his contributions to the success of the Canadian atomic energy program. He also holds the U.S. Atoms for Peace Award and the Royal Society of Canada Medal.

The Canadian International Development Agency will help Tanzania restore its railway system with a \$60-million grant to be distributed over the next six years.

The Federal Government and the government of Yukon recently signed a General Development Agreement designed to provide a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to social and economic planning and development in the Yukon. The agreement is modelled on Department of Regional Economic Expansion agreements with the provinces and is considered the most appropriate method for federal-territorial planning and economic expansion in the territory.

Garson Vogel, chief commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board, has been appointed executive director of the UN World Food Program. He will take up his five-year appointment in October. The World Food Program, jointly sponsored by the UN and FAO, has committed \$750 million for Third World projects in its current annual budget.

The Canadian Pulp and Paper Association says newsprint and pulp capacity of Canadian mills is expected to increase at a slower pace in the next three years than in the previous five, with newsprint capacity rising only 0.9 per cent a year.

Tests are being conducted in Vancouver on a brand of West German bird seed. The manufacturer — Vitakraft — guarantees that its product "promotes singing in canaries and other song birds". Sing-Song Treat contains rapeseed, radish seed, honey and Nigerseed. The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws in Canada says Nigerseed is really marijuana.

To ensure that the best examples of Canada's cultural, historic and scientific heritage remain in the country, the Federal Government is moving to prevent the uncontrolled export of national treasures. The Cultural Property Export and Import Act (Bill C-33), which will regulate the import and export of such property and provide tax incentives to encourage Canadians to dispose of their national treasures to their local institutions, came into force on September 6.

The Federal Government reported a deficit of \$299 million in July, an increase of a deficit of \$85 million in July a year ago. Government revenues declined to \$2.6 billion from \$2.95 billion in July 1976. At the same time, spending rose to \$3.6 billion from \$3.02 billion.