

\$25 million" (Government of Canada News Release, November 25).

### **Hydro Exports to the United States**

A national energy conference bringing together public and private energy organizations was told by New Hampshire Governor John Sanunu that the northeastern United States had underestimated its energy needs and would likely have to buy more electricity from Canada. This situation was caused by the slowdown in construction of coal-fired and nuclear power plants due to the unpopularity of nuclear power and acid rain-producing coal-fire stations (*Globe and Mail*, October 8).

Earlier this year, the National Energy Board had halted sales to New England by Hydro-Quebec because the electricity had not first been offered to other provinces. However, the Canadian electricity industry's ability to export would soon be affected by an upcoming government policy to deregulate electricity sales, according to a statement made by Energy Minister Marcel Masse in a speech in Montreal to the Montreal Council of International Relations on October 29. Canada last year sold \$10-billion worth of energy to the United States in oil, gas and electricity (*Globe and Mail*, October 30).

### **Acid Rain**

Acid rain continued to be a difficult issue in Canada-US relations (See "International Canada" for August/September). In early October, EPA Director Lee Thomas testified before a Congressional sub-committee that acid rain was not a major environmental problem and that there was no need for an immediate US government cleanup. The statement supported the Reagan administration's policy which so far had refused stiffer pollution controls while insisting that more research was needed (*Ottawa Citizen*, October 3). Mr. Thomas's report was attacked by Environment Minister Tom McMillan as being incomplete and misleading (*Globe and Mail*, October 21).

John Dingell, Chairman of the House of Representatives committee studying acid rain, attacked Canada's increased lobbying over acid rain, saying that this effort could be inconsistent with US lobbying laws (*Globe and Mail*, October 7).

In Canada, Rick Burnett, a Canadian researcher, told a conference on environmental pollution in Well-sley Island, N.Y., that approximately 4,000 Ontario and Quebec residents die from air pollution and acid rain each year. Mr. Burnett also noted that although Canada had begun to fight acid rain with sulphur dioxide emission controls, the US response had been slower. "A lot of people will be put out of jobs if it's decided that coal from Kentucky will no longer be burned...One of the worst health effects of air pollution may be unemployment," Mr. Burnett said (*Globe and Mail*, October 5). Meanwhile, according to a *Toronto Star* report on November 18, researchers from the University of California found that sulphur pollution, the main component of acid rain, played a major role in the incidence of

breast and colon cancer.

In mid-November, international acid rain talks provided another forum for Canada's concerns. Environment Minister Tom McMillan stated that Canada advocated a two-pronged approach which would include: 1) more research, and 2) freezing pollution at current levels. This proposal received some criticism from environmental lobbyists for being too close to the US position and not being in the lead at acid rain talks (*Toronto Star*, November 18).

Negotiations on an acid rain treaty with the US were announced for the beginning of December. Environmental groups and Canadian officials were pessimistic about the outcome, since the United States had so far been unwilling to spend billions of dollars to assuage Canadian concerns. The United States had only been willing to consider regulatory changes and a more focused use of clean coal technology (*Globe and Mail*, November 26).

### **Potash**

US farmers sided with Canada (See "International Canada" for August/September) on the issue of potash imports after the US Commerce Department imposed a \$35 per ton tariff to make up for what it considered Canadian dumping of the key fertilizer ingredient. The US imports 80 percent of its potash and Canada accounts for 85 percent of that amount (*Ottawa Citizen*, October 13).

## **Central America**

### **Visit by Nicaraguan Vice-President**

Nicaraguan Vice-President Sergio Ramirez scheduled a Canadian visit for October 20-23, 1987, a year later than originally planned, the *Ottawa Citizen* reported on October 6. In an interview shortly before his departure from Nicaragua, Vice-President Ramirez said that Nicaragua was counting on help from Canada in preventing US meddling in the Central American peace process. He said he would ask Canada to play a role in the verification of the Central American peace agreement signed in August, which requires the Sandinistas to arrange a ceasefire, offer amnesty, lift all press restrictions, and guarantee "total political pluralism." In turn, other Central American nations would agree to stop supporting the US-backed Contras. Mr. Ramirez said he would also appeal for increased Canadian economic assistance, which had not been substantial since 1985 (*Toronto Star*, October 19). As the first high-level Nicaraguan official to visit Canada since the 1979 Sandinista revolution, Vice-President Ramirez said: "I don't expect ideological and political support from the Government of Canada. But as far as Canada supporting peace in Central America, as far as Canada keeps saying that no power has the right to intervene in the internal affairs of Central America and that peace must be negotiated, I think Canada is playing a very constructive role" (*Toronto Star*, October 25).

While in Canada, Vice-President Ramirez met with