

It was equally agreed to strengthen consultations between French-speaking nations, and that the question of consultation could usefully be taken up at the next general conference of the Cultural and Technical Co-operation Agency which will take place in Mauritius next November.

#### Towards trade ties

The Senegalese delegation and Industry, Trade and Commerce delegates will study ways and means of establishing commercial relations between the two countries, which are now practically non-existent.

In the main, discussions concerned development assistance. Among on-going projects, it was decided to facilitate access to the "Ecole polytechnique de Thies" (technical school) for nationals of other states in the region. The visitors and representatives of CIDA reviewed implementation procedures for several projects recently approved by CIDA in forestry maintenance, cattle breeding, coastal surveillance and fisheries development as well as a survey of ocean resources off the coast of Senegal.

CIDA officials agreed to undertake a study of a number of new projects introduced by the Senegalese delegation, the cost of which would amount to some \$30 million over a period of five years. These are expanded and integrated undertakings in agriculture and fisheries as well as the provision of expertise and equipment in the industrial sector.

#### Naval reserve units reopen

Two western naval reserve units opened recently, providing weekly naval training to about 170 Edmonton and Regina reservists for the first time in 11 years. HMCS *Nonsuch*, located in a downtown Edmonton recreation centre, was commissioned September 27 and HMCS *Queen*, near downtown Regina, a day later.

The bases, and three others in cities across Canada, closed in early 1964 following an economy move in the Department of National Defence. They are now being recommissioned to increase national naval reserve manpower to fulfil Maritime Command's roles for its reserves.

#### Defence chief visits Japan and Korea

The chief of the defence staff, General J.A. Dextraze, recently spent two weeks visiting Japan and Korea, returning to Ottawa November 1. The governments of both countries had extended invitations to General Dextraze some time ago.

General Dextraze toured defence installations in Japan and Korea and met with defence officials of both countries.

In South Korea, he visited the Canadian Kapyong memorial prior to its official opening on November 7. The memorial is dedicated to Canadians who fought under the United Nations there in the early 1950s.

Kapyong was the site of the battle which resulted in a United States presidential citation being awarded to the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, now based in Winnipeg.

General Dextraze commanded the 2nd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment ("the Van Doos") in Korea. The battalion is returning to Quebec City this month after a six-month tour with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

#### Personal exemptions increased for 1976 taxation

Personal exemptions and tax brackets will be increased by 11.3 per cent for the 1976 taxation year as a result of the indexing plan for personal income taxes, Finance Minister Donald S. Macdonald announced recently. This will reduce federal revenues in 1976 by \$1,025 million.

The indexing plan, approved by Parliament in 1973 and introduced with the 1974 taxation year, provides for an increase in the major personal exemptions and deductions and tax-bracket limits each year to reflect changes in the consumer price index. In this way taxpayers are prevented from being pushed into higher tax brackets by purely inflationary increases in income.

For 1976, the basic personal exemption will be increased to \$2,091 from the current level of \$1,878, the married exemption will rise to \$1,830 from \$1,644 and the deduction for the aged and disabled will be increased to

\$1,307 from \$1,174. In addition, the maximum exemption for dependent children under 16 will rise to \$392 from \$352, while for children age 16 or over the corresponding increase is to \$719 from \$646.

The adjustment for 1976 was obtained by dividing the average consumer price index for the 12 months ending September 1975 by the corresponding average for the 12 months ending September 1972. This will result in the major personal income tax exemptions and the tax bracket limits being raised by 11.3 per cent from their current levels or by 30.7 per cent from the levels that prevailed in 1973, the last year prior to indexation. These percentages are calculated using the consumer price index as revised by Statistics Canada in August 1975. This revision, which entails a change in the base year from 1961 to 1971, does not affect the percentages used for indexing.

#### Quebec's controversial language law

In July 1974, the province of Quebec made French its official language, giving it precedence over English for most governmental, commercial and legal purposes. Bill 22, now Act 22, has been attacked by both French- and English-speaking Canadians.

The French contend that Act 22 is too much concerned about the English minority to achieve its goal of protecting and promoting the French language.

The English-language opposition centres on the curtailing of the right once enjoyed by Quebec parents to choose whether their children will be educated in French or English. Under the new law, most children in public schools must study exclusively in French unless their own language is English.

The argument came to a peak at the beginning of the school year in September, when students of Italian immigrants in the Montreal suburb of St. Leonard, who passed tests in English, were refused entry into English-language schools because of the quota system imposed by the act. Quebec authorities have been disturbed because the overwhelming majority of immigrants prefer to have their children educated in English. A census showed that of 140,000 immigrants, 48 per cent speak English at home and only 2 per