

companies concerned, we will be publishing a code of conduct and ethics for Canadian companies operating in South Africa, designed to govern their employment and similar practices. This will be done as quickly as possible.

Action on visas

The fourth measure is related to South Africa's former membership in the Commonwealth and which we now propose to change. From a date to be announced, we will require non-immigrant visas from all residents of South Africa coming to Canada. We have asked the appropriate officials to examine the impact and the capacity that is open to us to renounce the British preferential tariff. It is still in effect even though the Commonwealth membership of South Africa has long since ceased to exist.

In addition to all of these measures, we are very much concerned about two other aspects of South Africa and South African operations, namely, the activities of Canadian companies in Namibia. Once again we have asked the officials of the Department of Finance and others, as quickly as possible, to look into all of the implications of possible tax concessions and the like which these companies may be obtaining and which are being provided by what is essentially an illegal régime in Namibia by our standards and by our demonstrated conduct at the United Nations.

We are also establishing possible codes of conduct for further investment by Canadians in Namibia. It may be asked, and I am sure it will be, why these measures are not introduced immediately. There are two [reasons]. First, we want to be very sure that we do not penalize Canadian companies which may have been active in that country for legitimate and perfectly acceptable purposes. Nevertheless, there is an incongruity unquestionably in a situation which permits an illegal régime by world definition to be benefiting Canadian companies in the manner I have outlined.

Hope for solution

There is a second reason why we are withholding for the time being any further action. We continue to hope that a means will be found of ensuring that there is a peaceful and satisfactory solution for Namibia, one that will bring about equality, one man and one vote. We hope this can be done through negotiations and the

process in which Canada is participating and which relates to the five Western members of the Security Council talking with the Government of South Africa and the other parties concerned.

In the process of making this statement and of expressing my hope for a peaceful outcome in Namibia, it is also Canada's hope and wish that the black leadership there as elsewhere in South Africa will show its own high level of responsibility. We hope it will do everything reasonable and possible to bring about transition by peaceful means rather than plunge another region on that tragic continent into the kind of bloodshed we have seen repeated over and over again in recent years.

There is one final point. We will keep the whole South African situation under review. We are moving now to make sure that our own embargo against sales of arms to South Africa is on all fours with the recent declaration of the Security Council which placed an international embargo on arms shipments.

This is the first time in the history of the United Nations that such an embargo has been imposed on a member state. I believe this is a step in the direction which is inevitable and appropriate that we should take. I re-emphasize that we will keep the whole South African situation under review.

Habitat institution established by United Nations

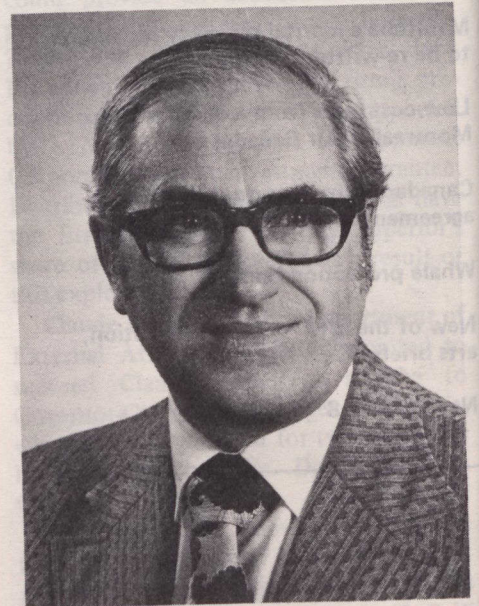
The Department of External Affairs announced on December 21 that the United Nations General Assembly had established a 58-member Human Settlements Commission to carry out the recommendations for action approved by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver in 1976. The Commission will be supported by a special secretariat, the Centre for Human Settlements, led by an executive director to be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Although based in Nairobi, Kenya, the Centre will have officers throughout the world and most of its work will be conducted through the regional economic commissions of the United Nations.

The institutional arrangements for human settlements adopted on December 19 by the General Assembly are, for the most part, identical to those recommended by the Vancouver conference. Van-

couver asked the General Assembly to take up certain political questions that it was not constituted to resolve.

The Canadian Government, as host of the Vancouver conference, has been a leader in the international negotiations which led up to the General Assembly's decision in December. The establishment of the Human Settlements Commission and the Centre for Human Settlements ensures that the momentum begun in Vancouver will be sustained. It provides for an efficient re-organization of human settlements activity within the United Nations' system and should lead to more effective international support for the national action that is urgently required in this field, especially in developing countries.

Energy Board new chairman



Jack Stabback (above) became chairman of the National Energy Board on January 1. He has been the Board's vice-chairman since 1976.

Mr. Stabback, a graduate in chemical engineering from the University of Alberta, served successively as field engineer, chief gas engineer and administrator for gas for the Oil and Gas Conservation Board of the province of Alberta.

Mr. Stabback is a director of the Petroleum Society of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and a member of the Ontario Association of Professional Engineers. He has published several papers dealing with the gas industry in Western Canada.