

Canada/EC discussions

Senior officials of the Canadian Government and of the Commission of the European Communities held a series of meetings in Ottawa on bilateral and multilateral economic matters in Ottawa from September 27 to 29.

Meetings took place of the two sub-committees of the Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) established in 1976 under the Canada/EC Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation at which representatives of several provincial governments joined federal officials.

The third meeting of the General and Preparatory Sub-committee, co-chaired by D.S. McPhail, Assistant Under-Secretary of Canada's Department of External Affairs, and J. Loeff, Deputy Director General for the Communities' External Relations, reviewed current co-operation in environmental matters, science and technology, and regional development.

Scientific exchanges

A number of new co-operative endeavours in science and technology recently began with the visit to Ottawa in September 1978 of a mission led by the Commission's Director General of Research, Science and Education, Günter Schuster, and Euratom Supply Agency head, Jan Baldem Mennicken. The new co-operative program includes exchanges of information covering the exploration and extraction of natural resources; alternative energy sources; technology forecasting systems; and nuclear waste disposal and related health and safety measures.

The sub-committee agreed to the holding of an experimental workshop on impediments to Canada/EC trade, which will take place in Canada in November, on competition policy. A comparable workshop for businessmen in the Community will be decided on at a later date.

During the fourth meeting of the Industrial Co-operation Sub-committee, co-chaired by Anthony Guérin, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Canadian Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and Mr. Loeff, views were exchanged on industrial development policies in Canada and the EC, and the current state of co-operation in the sub-committee's working groups on forest products, telecommunications and data-processing, aeronautics, and the nuclear industry was

reviewed.

The sub-committee adopted terms of reference of a new working group on metals and minerals, which will cover the iron and steel, asbestos, non-ferrous metals and coal sectors. The sub-committee discussed the recently established link between the Business Co-operation Centre of the EC Commission and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, which will help to promote joint ventures and related arrangements between Canada and Community firms. The sub-committee also exchanged preliminary views on the work program for industrial co-operation in 1979/80.

Semi-annual senior official consultations also took place on various multilateral and bilateral economic issues and consultations were continued under Article XIX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on Canada's import restrictions on footwear.

Aid for Indonesian refugees

Canada will admit 20 Indochinese families a month from Thailand as refugees, and will contribute \$500,000 through the Canadian International Development Agency for relief operations in Thailand.

These two new measures were announced on September 26 by Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson and Canada Employment and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen as part of Canada's continuing effort to respond to the plight of Indochinese refugees in Thailand.

The \$500,000-contribution to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees brings Canada's total for humanitarian assistance and emergency relief for Southeast Asia to \$24 million, Mr. Jamieson said.

The new immigration program for Indochinese families follows a similar program to accept 50 families of Vietnamese small boat refugees each month, announced in January of this year. Since 1975, Canada has accepted more than 7,000 refugees from Southeast Asia.

Both federal ministers emphasized the desperate plight of those who had fled into Thailand from Cambodia, and said that special attention should be paid to this group which represents about 15 per cent of the more than 100,000 Indochinese refugees in Thailand. Refugees in Thailand include Vietnamese, Cambodians and Laotians.

Jacques Couture, Quebec's Immigration Minister, has offered to assist in selecting and resettling in Quebec over half of the families accepted under this new program in Thailand.

Mr. Cullen explained that the new program would concentrate on refugee families who were considered the most likely to become successfully settled in Canada, and that the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission was seeking the assistance of volunteer organizations and church groups to help them get established in Canada.

War assets keeper winds up business

The program for the return of property vested in the Second World War Custodian, to eligible former owners, will end this year. Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson, who made the announcement on September 29, said that persons whose property in Canada vested in the Custodian at that time because they were resident in enemy occupied territory or were resident in Italy, had until December 31, 1978 to apply for the release of their property. Applications received after that date would not be considered.

Mr. Jamieson said the bulk of those assets had long since been returned and the residual assets were those whose former owners had not come forward and could not otherwise be traced.

Residual assets are identified with persons who resided during the Second World War in Austria, Belgium, China, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia.

No claims may be made in respect of property formerly owned by persons who resided in enemy countries during the Second World War, other than with respect to property formerly owned by residents of Italy. This latter property is an exception by virtue of the agreement between Canada and Italy of September 20, 1951 for the settlement of certain Canadian war claims and the release of Italian assets in Canada.

Applications should be directed, before the December 31, 1978 deadline, to Office of the Custodian, C/o Government of Canada Accounting Branch, Department of Supply and Services, 10A1, Phase III, Place du Portage, 11 Laurier Street, Hull, Quebec, Canada K1A 0S5.