

## Ministers meet with US counterparts

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Jean Chrétien, Minister of Transport Jean-Luc Pepin and Minister of Justice Mark MacGuigan made separate trips to Washington, D.C. recently to meet with their American counterparts.

During their talks on April 11 and 12, the third of agreed periodic meetings, Secretary of State for External Affairs MacEachen and US Secretary of State George Shultz discussed a wide range of multilateral and bilateral issues. The problem of acid rain was a particular focus of discussions. There was agreement on the next steps to attempt to reason differences of view on this issue, including further discussions between scientific advisors. The issue of trade protectionism, the extraterritorial effect of US legislation and other bilateral questions were also addressed. Arms control, the international economy, including oil prices, and the situations in the Middle East and Central America were the main international topics.

Mr. MacEachen also met with Vice-President George Bush and Treasury Secretary Donald Regan joined Mr. MacEachen and Mr. Shultz at lunch for an exchange of views on economic questions, particularly in view of the Economic Summit meeting to be held in Williamsburg, Virginia, May 28-30, which Prime Minister Trudeau will be attending.

Mr. Chrétien met with US Energy Secretary Donald Hodel, April 6-7, to discuss the world energy outlook and Canadian electricity and natural gas exports to the United States.

Of his talks with the US officials, Mr. Chrétien said: "I came away from Washington convinced that the US wants Canada to continue to serve as a supplier of natural gas ... we hope to make it clear to our US customers that we are willing to respond to international energy market conditions."

The Canadian energy minister also met with Senator James McClure, the chairman of the Senate energy and natural resources committee, and Senator Henry Jackson, members of the House sub-committee responsible for oil and gas issues, chaired by Philip Sharp, and with the Senate foreign relations committee, chaired by Senator Charles Percy.

On April 11, Mr. Chrétien announced an 11 per cent reduction in the price of

natural gas exported to United States pipeline companies. The charge for gas at the US border dropped to \$4.40 (US) per million British thermal units from \$4.94.

Transport Minister Pepin met with his counterpart Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole and the chairman of the Senate subcommittee on aviation Nancy Kassebaum on April 7-8 with whom he discussed a range of transportation issues of interest to both countries. Among other things, Mr. Pepin discussed bilateral air relations including a dispute over air fares that took place in March.

Minister of Justice Mark MacGuigan, travelled to Washington for talks with his counterpart, Attorney-General Smith, on March 25. They discussed questions of mutual interest concerning the administration of justice in both countries as well as areas of bilateral co-operation on law enforcement.

## Canada signs prisoner convention

Canada has signed a convention which will enable Canadians serving long-term prison sentences in Europe to apply for repatriation to Canada to serve the balance of their sentences in Canadian penitentiaries.

The convention was signed under the aegis of the Council of Europe. The Canadian Ministry of the Solicitor General will be responsible for implementing the convention.

The agreement is the fourth international pact concluded by Canada on this



*Consul General Jean-Yves Grenon signs convention in Strasbourg.*

subject. Similar agreements are in force with the United States (1978), Mexico (1979), and Peru (1980). To date 93 Canadians have been transferred to Canada under these agreements. Agreements have been signed but not yet ratified with Bolivia, France and Thailand. It is the first multilateral convention Canada has signed under the aegis of the Council of Europe.

At present there are 24 Canadians known to be in jails of member states of the Council of Europe. Although Canada is not a member of the Council of Europe the convention provides for accession by non-members. Canadian officials participated actively in the drafting of the convention on the basis of Canadian experience in this area with other countries.

The convention was signed on behalf of Canada in Strasbourg, France, the seat of the Council of Europe, on March 21, by Canadian Consul General in Strasbourg, Jean-Yves Grenon. In addition to Canada, the countries that initially signed this convention are Austria, Sweden, Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Portugal, Belgium, Greece, Denmark and the United States. Other member states of the 21-member Council of Europe are expected to add their signatures later.

The convention will come into force three months after the date on which three member states of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the convention.

## Funds for Mali project

Canada will contribute \$716 000 to the Canadian UNICEF Committee for a water, health and sanitation project in Mali.

The grant, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will help provide clean drinking water; improve sanitation facilities; and train government employees and volunteers in maintaining the new installations. Primary beneficiaries of the project will be adolescents, women and children, most seriously affected by lack of clean water and sanitation facilities.

The project is part of a larger four-year UNICEF program which will provide improved social and health services to 105 communities in the Mopti and Timbuctoo regions. It is also expected to help reduce infant and child mortality rates.