

Export controls outlined

The National Energy Board has issued an outline of its proposed procedures for the implementation of export controls and export charges on aviation and marine bunker fuel used by foreign flag carriers and by domestic carriers engaged in international commerce.

Under the authority of the National Energy Board Act, the board will be responsible for issuing the requisite export licences and, under Part I of the Petroleum Administration Act, will be responsible for administering the collection of export charges.

The board is considering a basic system of quarterly licences. Persons requiring export licences for bunker fuel will be:

- refiners/terminal operators engaged in selling fuel to foreign airlines and foreign flag ships;
- domestic airlines and domestic shipping companies engaged in international commerce; and
- any other person providing bunker fuel to aircraft or ships for consumption in international commerce.

Quebec premier visits Europe

Quebec Premier René Lévesque made a visit to Belgium and France from December 11-17.

Mr. Lévesque was accompanied by an 18-member delegation including two ministers: Claude Morin, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Bernard Landry, Minister of State for Economic Development.

Visit to Belgium

Mr. Lévesque was met at the airport by the Minister for the French Community Michel Hansenne, the Minister for Flemish Affairs Gaston Geens, Canadian Ambassador to Belgium D'Iberville Fortier, and Quebec Delegate-General Jean-Marc Léger.

The Premier held talks first with Mr. Hansenne and then met with the Minister for the Walloon Region Jean-Maurice Dehousse to discuss economic co-operation between Quebec and Wallonia. The two regions have been co-operating in the cultural field since 1975.

During his three-day visit to Belgium, Mr. Lévesque met with King Baudouin. Accompanied by Mr. Fortier and Mr.

Léger, he also held talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Charles Nothomb and the President of the Commission of the European Communities Roy Jenkins.

The Quebec Premier met the Walloon regional executive in Namur and gave a lecture in Liège. He concluded his visit with a brief stop in Flanders where he was received by Mr. Geens.

Visit to France

On his arrival in France December 14, Mr. Lévesque was met by French Premier Raymond Barre, Canadian Ambassador Gérard Pelletier and Quebec Delegate-General Yves Michaud.

In Paris Mr. Lévesque held talks with French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and participated in a working meeting with his counterpart Premier Raymond Barre.

In a press conference at the conclusion of their talks, Mr. Barre and Mr. Lévesque announced the establishment of a centre to promote technological and industrial co-operation between France and Quebec. The centre will have two sections, one in Paris, the other in Montreal.

Following his meetings with Mr. d'Estaing and Mr. Barre, Mr. Lévesque was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Sorbonne. The Quebec Premier delivered an address during the ceremony at the university on the Francophonie and the future of Quebec.

Manitoba joins fire fighting pact

The Manitoba government has given approval for the province's Department of Natural Resources to become party to a Canada-United States Reciprocal Forest Fighting Resources Agreement intended to provide for the sharing of resources for fighting forest fires.

During periods of extreme forest fire conditions as occurred in Manitoba in 1980 the agreement would enable Manitoba to draw upon the resources of United States' fire suppression agencies as well as those in other provinces in Canada.

During the winter months or in years of low or moderate fire hazard, Manitoba could provide U.S. agencies with assistance in the form of aircraft or experienced fire fighters to combat extreme fire conditions.

The agreement provides for increased co-operation across the U.S.-Canadian boundary and will allow for quick action.

Vets commemorate liberation

Gilles Lamontagne, Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs, recently headed a delegation to Japan and Hong Kong to commemorate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the liberation of Canadian troops from captivity in Hong Kong.

Nearly 2,000 Canadians from the Royal Rifles and the Winnipeg Grenadiers fought to defend Hong Kong when it was attacked and overrun by the Japanese in December 1941. Over 550 Canadians were either killed in the defence or died during four years of captivity.



Minister of National Defence Gilles Lamontagne (left) speaks with a Hong Kong veteran in Hong Kong on the anniversary of the liberation of Canadian troops.

The delegation conducted commemorative ceremonies at the Yokohama British Commonwealth Cemetery in Japan where 137 Canadians are buried. They died in Japan after being transported from Hong Kong to work in labour camps.

Mr. Lamontagne attended two ceremonies in Hong Kong at the Sai Wan Bay War Cemetery and the Stanley War Cemetery. More than 300 Canadians are buried in the two cemeteries.

More than 100 representatives of the Hong Kong War Veterans Association of Canada attended the ceremonies.

Representatives of the Senate, House of Commons, Royal Canadian Legion, National Council of Veteran Associations in Canada and the Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada were part of the delegation led by Mr. Lamontagne.