
Embassy in Ecuador

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced that Canada will re-establish an embassy in Ecuador.

Canada established diplomatic relations with a resident embassy in Ecuador in the early 1960s. The embassy was closed in 1970 when austerity measures required the closure of a number of Canadian posts abroad although diplomatic relations continued to be maintained by the accreditation of the Canadian Ambassador resident in Bogota, Colombia.

Ecuador and Canada have consulted closely on Law of the Sea negotiations and international fisheries questions. The re-establishment of an embassy in Quito will facilitate trade and economic cooperation and will also enable better consular and other services to Canadian residents and visitors to Ecuador and to Ecuadorian citizens visiting Canada.

Bank act changed

Finance Minister Allan MacEachen has introduced a bill in the House of Commons to establish the legislative framework for Canada's banking system over the next ten years. The basic principle of the proposed changes to the Bank Act and related statutes is to increase competition and efficiency in the financial system.

The bill, except for minor technical changes, is the same as Bill C-14, which was introduced in the last Parliament, but was not proceeded with before Parliament was dissolved.

The basic proposals are designed to ensure that the banking system is national in scope, controlled by Canadians and as competitive as possible.

The proposals are divided into four main groups. One group is designed to increase competition by providing easier entry of new or existing Canadian-owned institutions to the banking system.

A second group relates to the role of the subsidiaries of foreign banks in the Canadian banking system. The objective is to recognize the presence of existing institutions and to accord to them and to subsidiaries of other foreign banks a competitive role in the federal system, while at the same time ensuring that the Canadian banking system remains pri-

marily Canadian-owned and -managed.

A third group would establish a Canadian Payments Association to ensure that the national payments system in Canada will evolve in a manner that is fair to all participants, is responsive to technological change and is efficient.

A fourth group is designed to strengthen competition in the financial markets by constraining the business powers of banks in some areas such as data processing and underwriting of corporate securities while at the same time extending the powers of the banks to include financial leasing and factoring.

Canadians attend royal ceremony

Governor-General Edward Schreyer and his wife Lily Schreyer represented Canada at the ceremony of accession to the throne of Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands on April 30 in the fourteenth century Cathedral Nieuwe Kerk (New Church) in Amsterdam.

The Governor General and his wife constituted a special delegation on this occasion underlining the close ties which exist between Canada and Holland.

Transportation funds increased

Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy has introduced a bill in the House of Commons to increase the total amount of money that can be loaned out at any one time for transportation purposes from \$20 to \$60 million.

The revolving fund, established in 1951, is used to make transportation loans to certain groups of immigrants and interest-free loans to refugees.

"The adjustment to the ceiling placed on the fund is necessary to assist the 60,000 refugees who will be coming to Canada by the end of this year," Mr. Axworthy said. Other reasons for expanding the fund include higher transportation costs and the distance the refugees must travel to come to Canada.

Between 1951 and 1979, \$79 million in loans had been made to immigrants and refugees to help them to resettle in Canada. The general rate of reimbursement is about 95 per cent, Mr. Axworthy said. While the figure applies to all loans, the repayment rate by refugees is higher than the average, he said.

Children to stabilize labour force

With post-war "baby-boom" children coming of age, Canada's labour force in the 1980s will feature more experienced workers and a subsequent increase in production, the Bank of Montreal's latest *Business Review* predicts.

Workers between the ages of 25 to 65 will make up about 80 per cent of the total work force by 1990, compared with 73 per cent in 1979, the review says.

"This much larger group of mature experienced workers will undoubtedly give more stability to Canada's work force in the coming decade and can be expected to lead to an increase in over-all productivity," it says.

But Canada could face a labour shortage in the 1980s, as jobs may exceed the number of young people entering the job market.

Meanwhile, the number of women entering the work force, which jumped to 40 per cent from 31 per cent in the 1970s, is expected to continue rising.

"Our calculations indicate that women may reach 45 per cent of the work force in 1990. By the year 2000, women could constitute almost half of the total work forces," says the report.

The movement of jobs and population towards western Canada will also continue, it says, adding that this trend could be offset if recent oil and gas discoveries off the east coast of Newfoundland turn out to be major finds.

Trade mission to North Africa

An agricultural trade mission, organized by Agriculture Canada and Industry, Trade and Commerce, travelled to Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia April 12-25.

Led by Agriculture Canada's Deputy Minister Gaétan Lussier, the mission included agribusiness representatives, food industry and producer groups, and federal and provincial government officials.

At the present time, Canada exports mainly grains and oilseeds to these North African countries, and evaporated milk to Algeria.

The trade mission examined the possibilities of exporting other food products and agricultural technology (including agricultural machinery, tobacco, potatoes, poultry products, cattle, dairy products and milk processing equipment).