

Canada Weekly

REF

Ottawa
Canada

Volume 9, No. 38
October 28, 1981

Prime Minister attends Melbourne meeting and visits South Korea and Fiji, 1

Food policy for the 1980s, 3

ILO representative visits, 3

Funds to Red Cross, 3

Increased wheat exports forecasted, 3

Canada and U.S. must not be distracted from achieving common goals, 4

Communications network planned, 6

Home computer for blind, 6

Funds help refugees adapt, 6

Austrian minister visits Canada, 6

News of the arts — exhibition, 7

News briefs, 8

Prime Minister attends Melbourne meeting and visits South Korea and Fiji

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau recently returned to Canada following a trip that took him to South Korea, Australia and Fiji. The highlight of the trip was the Prime Minister's attendance at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in Melbourne, Australia, September 30 to October 7.

This biennial meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government focused on world political and economic developments, in particular providing a link between the talks at the Ottawa Summit and the upcoming North-South Summit to be held at Cancun in Mexico. The agenda also provided for discussion of Commonwealth programs of functional co-operation.

With regards to the Cancun conference, Mr. Trudeau said before the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting that he thought the talks in Melbourne would be profitable if the participants could reach agreement on the establishment of an energy affiliate of the World

Bank and if the process of global negotiations could be accepted. The Prime Minister said he expected that the Melbourne conference would express the political will of the participants which would "influence other countries attending Cancun and not attending Cancun".

Urgent efforts required

In an address to the conference, attended by leaders from 41 Commonwealth countries, Mr. Trudeau called for urgent efforts to combat hunger and poverty in the Third World. The Prime Minister warned the Commonwealth Summit that not only poor countries but also the relatively rich now face "horrendous economic problems" and risks.

"There are no quick fixes or magic solutions," Mr. Trudeau told the conference. "Wisdom, compassion, co-operation and patience are required in the long haul ahead," he said. Prime Minister Trudeau added that history would judge 1981 as a watershed in North-South relations. The Prime Minister said it would be a year in which all countries either moved together in a concerted attack on economic disparities or allowed "a momentous opportunity to slip through our fingers".

Mr. Trudeau proposed a focus on four key issues affecting poor countries: improvements in food production, increased energy development with special assistance from a proposed new World Bank energy affiliate, better access to financing and a reduction in protectionism to improve the trade position of Third World countries.

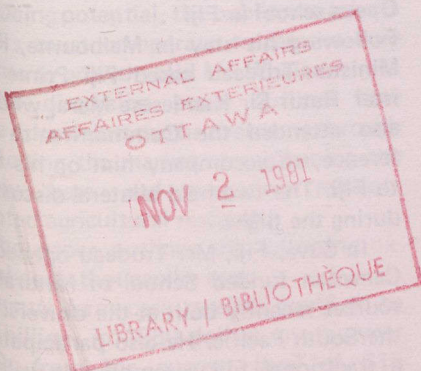
The Prime Minister added that Canada would make a major effort in the field of improved food production. Mr. Trudeau also called for major changes to create "an international system sensitive to the needs of all".

Constitutional talks

While in Melbourne Prime Minister Trudeau took the opportunity to meet



Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (top right) stands with other Commonwealth Heads of Government following a dinner with Queen Elizabeth aboard the Britannia.



External Affairs
Canada

Affaires extérieures
Canada

Oct. 28 / 81