

## Ontario premier visits Europe

Ontario Premier William Davis travelled to Europe recently to discuss commercial and technical co-operation with officials in France, Belgium and England. It was the first official visit to Europe by an Ontario premier in 20 years.

Mr. Davis began his visit in Paris, February 28, where he met with Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, Planning Minister Michel Rocard and Trade Minister Michel Jobert with whom he discussed a range of issues in an increasingly diversified trade relationship between France and Ontario.

Mr. Davis also met with representatives of the Renault company and Aérospatiale, a national aviation firm that is part of the Airbus consortium.

The premier held talks with Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, president of the World Centre: Informatics and Human Resources. The centre has signed an understanding with Idea Corporation and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. While in Paris, Premier Davis inaugurated Ontario House which has been named an Ontario Delegation.

Speaking before the France-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Davis named six areas of potential bilateral co-operation: equipment for the extraction and liquefaction of coal, new drilling techniques for mines, industrial robotics, food processing techniques, the automotive and aeronautics fields, and the biotechnology and hydrogen industry.

Premier Davis opened Ontario House, the Ontario Delegation General, in Brussels on March 2. Ontario House is aimed at improving trade and political ties between the province and Europe. The opening was attended by Canadian Ambassador to Belgium D'Iberville Fortier, Canadian Ambassador to the European Commission Richard Tait and Canadian Ambassador to NATO John Halstead.

At a lunch held on the occasion of the opening, Mr. Davis told business and government leaders that his province wanted to increase trade with the European Economic Community (EEC). The premier said that Ontario's high technology industry in particular offered "extraordinary potential for joint ventures with similar companies here in Europe".

The EEC is the province's largest trading partner after the United States. Ontario's exports to the EEC in 1981 totalled \$2.6 billion, nearly a third of



*Ontario Premier William Davis*

Canadian exports for that year, the last year for which complete figures are available. Imports from the EEC totalled \$2.5 billion in the same period.

While in Brussels, Mr. Davis also held talks with European Commission officials: President of the Commission Gaston Thorn, External Relations Commissioner Wilhelm Haferkamp and Industry Commissioner Étienne Davignon.

Addressing the Canada and Benelux Chambers of Commerce, Mr. Davis spoke of his province's desire to strengthen economic and cultural ties with Europe.

The premier asked the Europeans to provide greater access to their market for Ontario agricultural and industrial products. He also said that he favoured greater co-operation in industry, especially in the field of telecommunications.

"Ontario wishes to become more competitive and not concentrate on the United States market alone. I have come here with this in mind, and I propose that Europe increase its trade with us, not just in one direction but by way of increased co-operation," said Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis completed his European visit in London, where due to illness a major speech was given on his behalf by Edward Stewart, deputy minister in the premier's office. The speech on economic prospects for Ontario in 1984 was delivered at a banquet attended by businessmen, bankers and industrialists.

While the premier was forced to cancel most of his London appointments because of his illness, he was able to attend a concert given by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra before returning to Canada on March 6. The orchestra was on a one-month tour of seven European countries.

## Canada joins African bank

Canada has successfully completed negotiations to join the African Development Bank (AfDB), Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan MacEachen has announced.

Canada was officially declared a member on December 30, 1982, and will occupy a seat on the bank's board of directors. Prior to last year the bank membership was open only to independent African countries, and non-resident countries such as Canada were eligible to join the concessional arm of the bank, the African Development Fund.

Canada's share of non-regional capital stock amounts to 9.6 per cent of the total, the same as France, and fourth largest after the United States (17.04 per cent), Japan (14.04 per cent) and West Germany (10.54 per cent). The cash requirement of the Canadian subscription will be \$58.6 million (Cdn), to be paid in five equal annual installments.

Mr. MacEachen pointed out that Canada's objectives would be furthered by membership in the bank, particularly in strengthening ties with Francophone and Commonwealth nations in the region.

## Native employment boosted

Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Munro have announced that more than \$20 million in federal funds is being allocated for Indian job creation.

This money is expected to create more than 7 500 jobs in upcoming months, many for persons currently receiving welfare benefits. Workers will build and renovate housing, construct new community buildings, and improve the water, sewer and roads in Indian reserves. Social development programs, such as adult education, will also be supported.

"I believe this work will have both immediate and longer-term advantages for Canada's native population and, indirectly, the over-all economy," said Mr. Axworthy. "The work on NEED (New Employment Expansion and Development) projects will lessen welfare dependency, while providing useful and necessary community services and facilities." The funds for native job creation will be drawn from the \$500 million allocated for NEED by the federal Cabinet late last year.