

News briefs

Secretary of State for External Affairs

Joe Clark has announced that he has accepted an invitation from First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to visit the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in April. Mr. Clark said that his visit would reflect the government's commitment to high level dialogue with the Soviet leadership and to Canada's political and economic relations with the Soviet Union. Noting the wide range of Canada's bilateral interests with the USSR, Mr. Clark also underlined the high priority Canada attaches to promoting confidence between East and West as a contribution to peace and international security.

Consumer Affairs Minister Michel Côté

has announced that the government will maintain the policy of metric conversion. Retailers of food, gasoline and home furnishings will now be permitted to use metric or they may use the imperial system along with the metric system.

Minister of Health and Welfare Jake

Epp has released a consultation paper on child and elderly benefits which describes the benefit programs as they now exist, provides a record of how they have evolved, states the conclusions the government has reached concerning the principles it will

apply in considering proposals for reform and seeks direction to establish new policies. In the case of the elderly benefits programs the government has concluded that no change is required in the Old Age Security/ Guaranteed Income Supplement benefits structure. For the child benefit system, two options for change are presented: the first presents the elimination of the child tax exemption and an increase in the Child Tax Credit financed from the federal savings; the second proposes a more complex revision of the existing system.

Minister for International Trade James Kelleher has announced that Canadian Commercial Corporation has been awarded a \$2.6 million (Cdn) contract as a result of an international competition by UNICEF. Under the contract, Domtar Fine Papers Ltd. of Montreal will supply offset paper, which will be used to publish children's text books in Bangladesh. The paper will be supplied from Domtar's, Cornwall, Ontario plant.

Trillium Telephone Systems Inc. of Kanata, Ontario, has received approval from Nippon Telegraph & Telephone, the Japanese telecommunications authority, to sell its *TalkTo 109* telephone system in Japan. The Mitel Corp. subsidiary expects to sell at least \$500 000 worth of systems in Japan in the first year. The *TalkTo 109* is

a telephone and intercom system for home use that can handle one outside line and up to five extensions.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has announced a \$520 947 (US) financing agreement to support a sale of 20 equipped ambulances by Tri-Star Industries Limited, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, to the Kingdom of Morocco. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is providing parallel financing of \$305 953 (US) in connection with the sale.

The Braegen Group Inc. of Toronto, Ontario has announced the company's new integrated package for the IBM PC and IBM-compatibles that combines statistical analysis tools with high-resolution graphics. Statgraphics contains more than 350 statistical analysis routines and graphics programs such as two- and three-dimensional line and surface plots, histograms, pie charts, time sequence charts and quality control charts. The package can support pen plotters, colour and monochrome graphics boards and dot matrix printers. It is menu-driven and includes an on-line help feature.

Speed skater Gaetan Boucher of St-Hubert, Quebec, captured his second meet title in as many weeks in Davos, Switzerland, January 26-27. After victories in the 500- and 3 000-metre events, he won the 1 500-metre race to clinch the all-around title. It is the tenth consecutive meet title he has won.

Bill Keenan of Calgary, Alberta, placed first in the men's free style mogul skiing event at a recent World Cup competition at Breckenridge, Colorado. Other Canadians placing in the event were: Alain Laroche of Lac Beauport, Quebec, eighteenth; Murray Cluff of Medicine Hat, Alberta, twenty-fourth; Chris Simboli of Ottawa, twenty-fifth; Craig Young of Toronto, twenty-ninth; Dave Walker of Thunder Bay, Ontario, thirtieth; and Pat Henry of Red Deer, Alberta, thirty-sixth. In the women's event Meredith Gardner of Toronto placed tenth and Janice Cannon, also of Toronto, finished eleventh.

Canada Weekly is published by the Cultural and Public Information Bureau, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.

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Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiero de Canadá.

Alguns artigos desta publicação são também editados em português sob o título Notícias do Canadá.

Rescue on thin ice



Jeff Stephenson (right), a member of the National Association for Search and Rescue, and Colin Knight, are studying the use of hovercraft in the frigid -20°C waters of the Assiniboine River near Headingly, Manitoba. Mr. Knight designed the hovercraft for rescues on thin ice and open water when other methods are impossible.

Dave Johnson, Winnipeg Free Press

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ISSN 0384-2312