Canada and Poland sign transport and fisheries pacts

Canada and Poland signed two agreements on May 14 — one on air transport that provides for the first direct air link between the two countries, and the other on fisheries relations. The air agreement was signed on behalf of Canada by Allan J. MacEachen, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and for the Government of the Polish People's Republic, Stefan Olszowski, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was visiting Canada.

The two governments agreed on a commercial pool arrangement between the two designated airlines, Air Canada and LOT Polish Airlines, which will result in close co-operation and a sharing of revenues by the two carriers. LOT Polish Airlines was expected to begin service between Warsaw and Montreal on June 4, and would have the right to carry local traffic between Montreal and New York or alternatively to serve another point in the United States or south of the United States without such traffic rights.

Air Canada, which will begin service in about two years, will have the right to serve Poland via two intermediate points in Europe to be named by Canada with local traffic rights between those points and Warsaw, as well as the right to serve one point beyond Warsaw without such rights.

The fisheries agreement, which comes into force immediately, sets out the terms and conditions that will govern continued fishing by Polish fishing vessels in areas to be brought under Canadian jurisdiction beyond the present limits of the Canadian territorial sea and fishing zones off the Canadian coast. Polish vessels are permitted to fish in the area concerned, under Canadian control for resources surplus to Canada's needs.

Stratford ticket sales booming

The Stratford Festival box office has taken in $1 million in ticket sales in its first six weeks of operation in 1976 — an all-time record.

In 1975, which was also a record-breaker in sales, the Festival had sold $1-million worth of tickets by May 7, ten weeks after the box office opened for business. This year, the Festival has bettered its own record by a full

Antony and Cleopatra, *are played by Keith Baxter and Maggie Smith.*

four weeks. The box office opened March 8, and by April 19, $1-million worth of tickets had been processed. Unprocessed orders add another $500,000 to the amount, bringing the total, at April 19, to $1.5 million.

With some $4-million worth of tickets to be sold, however, good seats are still available all through the 22-week season. Heaviest booking to date has been Fridays and Saturdays in July and August. Officials advise that those who are able to attend mid-week will find the widest choice of seats. Tickets are also available for Sunday matinees at the Avon Theatre and Sunday evening performances at the Festival Theatre.

"Imaginative and exciting" season

Ten drama productions, two concert series and an international film festival are lined up for this year's summer festival, June 7 to October 16.

Tony Van Bridge (left), *Domini Blythe and Keith Baxter in a scene from* The Way of the World.

Artistic director Robin Phillips says the 1976 festival (the twenty-fourth), promises an exciting, imaginative and eventful season, with full-scale productions of plays by Shakespeare, Congreve, Chekhov, and Oscar Wilde, with the première of a new Canadian play.

Additionally, there will be chamber music recitals and pop and jazz concerts, with new and outstanding works of cinema from major production centres throughout the world.

Play titles include: *The Way of the World; The Merchant of Venice; Antony and Cleopatra; Measure for Measure; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Hamlet; The Tempest; The Importance of Being Earnest; Eve,* and *Three Sisters.*

Artists appearing include Maggie Smith, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, William Hutt, Martha Henry, Tom Kneebone, Jeremy Brett and Tony Van Bridge.

In the music series there will be appearances by Oscar Peterson, Cleo Laine and John Dankworth, and Anne Murray.

In a scene from Hamlet, *Nicholas Pennell plays the title role and Stephen Russell, Horatio.*