

De Havilland and Canadair, and a uranium mining and processing company, Eldorado Nuclear.

Warburg is one of the three investment banks charged with finding buyers for the three companies. The others are Burns Fry of Toronto and Merrill Lynch of New York.

The Canadian government has told these banks that it is prepared to consider seeing the two aircraft companies pass into 100% foreign ownership, if need be. However, it is likely to insist on retaining a majority stake in the uranium business on the grounds of national security.

According to Canadian Treasury Board President Robert de Cotret, disposing of some of the governments Crown corporations is not a money-saving move, but something that has to be done 'to ensure that we're playing the role we want in our private markets'.

Energy

Agreement reached on new oil and gas prices and taxation

The Canadian government and Canada's three main oil-producing provinces – Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan – have signed an agreement, which sets the new stage for oil pricing and the taxation of petroleum-producing companies in Canada.

Under the agreement, Canadian oil prices will rise to world levels, effective June 1. Since the mid 1970s, Canadian oil prices have been kept artificially low, regulated by the federal government in a move to protect the competitive position of Canadian companies that use oil to fuel their operations.

The agreement calls for the progressive removal of a federal tax on oil and natural gas. This levy is to be phased out over three years. Part of the agreement eliminates the subsidies the government had been paying on crude oil imported into Eastern Canada.

The agreement opens the way for increased investment in Canada's oil and gas industry. And it gives a boost to the economics of the western provinces.

Immigration

Canada actively looking for entrepreneurial immigrants

The Canadian government is taking steps to attract to Canada more immigrants who can bring with them established entrepreneurial skills.

In Ottawa recently, Conservative members of the Commons immigration committee presented a report that recommended there be a sharp increase in the number of immigrants entering the country, especially if those immigrants were successful entrepreneurs who could bring their management skills and their job-creating abilities.

And in Britain, the Canadian government recently placed an advertisement in the *Sunday Times*, asking successful entrepreneurs to 'bring us your expertise, business talent and capital.'

The advertisement stressed that Canada welcomes investors with proven ability and experience. And it pointed out that in return, Canada can offer a stable commercial environment, an expanding economy, a highly skilled workforce, plentiful energy and resources, a refreshingly new lifestyle, plus access to the 'vast and vastly prosperous markets of North America'.

In 1983, some 2000 entrepreneurs went to Canada as immigrants, taking with them about \$820 million in capital. Any entrepreneurs interested in establishing themselves in Canada are invited to contact the Entrepreneurial Development Officer, telephone 01-629 9492 ext 522.

Government

Newfoundland's Peckford sees majority reduced

On April 2, 1985, the voters of Newfoundland went to the polls and re-elected a Conservative government. They cut back the number of seats held by the Tories and they reduced the Tories' share of the popular vote. However, Tory strength was such that even with the cutbacks, the Conservatives were again returned with a majority.

Going into the election, the Conservatives held 44 of the provincial legislature's 52 seats. Coming out, they had 36 seats. The Liberals were the main beneficiaries; they took 15 seats. The New Democratic Party came second in six of the districts, but were only able to capture one.

The swing away from the Conservatives was reflected in the popular vote. In the previous election in 1982, the Tories had taken 61% of the votes; this time, their share fell to 49%. The Liberal vote rose slightly, to 37%, up from 35%. For the NDP, the popular vote jumped nearly four-fold to 14%.

Three Cabinet ministers went down to defeat: Len Simms, Hazel Newhook and Joseph Goudie. Premier Brian Peckford was unable to vote, because poor weather prevented him from travelling to his home constituency. However, he won re-election with a comfortable margin. That gave him his third victory and third term in office within the past six years.

Overseas Aid

Labour union initiates famine relief donations

An important Canadian aid initiative has been announced by Gerard Docquier, national director of the United Steel Workers of America.

Canadian members (160 000) of this 750 000-strong international union will start a permanent payroll-deduction plan to raise money for famine relief in the Third World.

Each steelworker will be asked to donate one cent an hour – about 40 cents a week or \$20 a year to a national Humanity Fund. Eighty-five percent of the money will go to international projects approved by the union; the remaining 15% will be set aside for Canadian relief projects, such as food banks. Donations will be voluntary on an opting-out basis, and employers will be encouraged to make matching contributions.

Docquier says that the plan will take time to develop, because new contract clauses have to be negotiated by individual steelworkers' locals to

authorise employers to make the deductions.

However, little resistance is anticipated, because amounts sought from individual union members are small, and employers are already set up to make deductions for other purposes.

It is expected that the plan will raise about \$100 000 this year, and \$600 000 annually by mid-1988.

Docquier is also trying to encourage other affiliates of the Canadian Labour Congress to start famine relief funds, too.

Documentation

Canadian government issues new-look passport

A new Canadian passport, smaller and designed to be read by machines, was issued recently. The current passport fee of \$21 will not change, and existing passports will be valid until their stated date of expiry.

Personal information, a photograph and passport details will be placed on one page under a plastic cover. Two lines of information at the bottom of a page will repeat some of the information in a special format for machine reading.

The External Affairs Department says the new passport will be smaller and more secure.

Culture

Festival features works of Quebecois composer

The 1985 Almeida International Festival of Contemporary Music and Performance will devote a major part of its program this year to the work of the late Quebecois composer, Claude Vivier.

Vivier, who was murdered in his Paris apartment two years ago at the age of 34, has only recently begun to attract an international following to his music. The Almeida Festival, which is held at the Almeida Theatre in London (June 8–July 8), marks the first occasion that his music has been performed in this country.

The Festival this year falls into four main sections: A Celebration of American Experimental Music.