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Federal policy for assistance to the official language minorities

Secretary of State John Roberts made public recently the second phase of the federal policy for assistance to francophone and anglophone minorities, which will give increased emphasis to the implementation of the principles of linguistic equality announced by the Federal Government in 1969.

The Government will strengthen its policy for assistance to minorities by setting up shortly a permanent mécanisme d'accueil, by putting more emphasis on consultations with the organizations concerned with the well-being of minorities and by providing increased grants for the social and cultural development of minorities.

Mr. Roberts pointed out that the Government was urging citizens to feel free to lead their lives and pursue their development in the official language of their choice.

He has indicated that both governments and individuals should strive to ensure an equal status for French and English in the legislatures, in the courts, in the educational systems, in the public services, and in the state-owned radio and television stations.

Excerpts from Mr. Roberts' statement follow:

* * * *

Last year, in the document entitled *A National Understanding*, the Federal Government urged that the principles within its own structure be gradually adopted by all Canadians and their respective governments.

In response to those basic principles, the federal and provincial governments must, directly or indirectly, move to ensure the maintenance and development of the linguistic and cultural heritage of both official language communities, a heritage which is enriched by the cultural diversity of communities of other backgrounds.

The action that the Federal Government undertook in 1969 to help the development of official language minority groups in the educational, social and cultural fields, is in keeping with the underlying principles, which have a twofold objective: to help them enhance their own identity by safeguarding their language and their culture and to encourage the majority groups to understand the aspirations of the minorities.

Measures taken

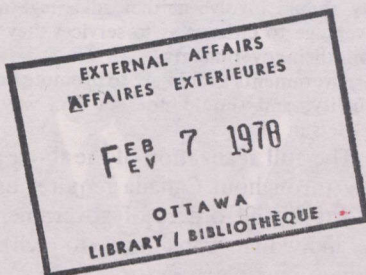
...In the past year I have doubled the financial resources available to the offi-

cial language minority groups, and I have undertaken a new round of negotiations with the provincial governments, with a view to obtaining a more efficient use of the funds transferred to the provinces for assistance in second language and minority language education.

In addition, in spite of budgetary restraints, we have increased the estimates for the Official Language Minority Group program from \$30 to \$75 million for the next five years.

Since 1969, the Federal Government's efforts have been increased to enable the minorities to express their own identity more adequately. The evidence of this is that not only the provincial associations, the national associations and the Fédération des Francophones hors Québec, but also the Members of Parliament have often raised important issues about the future of the minority language communities. The over-all picture indicates that there is a waking up among communities and individuals within the official language minorities.

We, in the Federal Government, have listened to those concerns with a sympathetic ear and we have set ourselves the task of reviewing our policies affecting minorities. But it would not be true to



Louis S. St. Laurent, Canada's Prime Minister from 1948 to 1957, was born on this date in 1882. Under his leadership, Canada became increasingly important in international affairs. Mr. St. Laurent, one of the chief architects of NATO, died in 1973.

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say that there has been no general policy before now to help *francophone* minorities to survive and develop.

If that was not always obvious, it was probably due to the fact that, because of its intricacy, it went far beyond the framework of one particular department and did not always deal only with the programs which directly affected the *francophone* and *anglophone* communities.

I would like to take only one example: the bilingualism policy in the federal administration, which was directed in large measure to providing equivalent services in French. I shall quote to that effect the statement made by Keith Spicer in his last report as Commissioner for Official Languages:

In officially recognizing and financially encouraging their provincial associations, by passing the Official Languages Act to extend their rights, and by broadening their self-awareness through socio-cultural animation, it made their rebirth possible. All of this has contributed to making the French speaking minority less of a "minority within a minority", in fact it has confirmed them as one of the two national "majorities".

As a result of that, each department must be more specific from now on and must take into account the needs of the minority communities when drawing up its annual program for the improvement of the quality of services delivered in both languages.

In another field, namely broadcasting, the main action of the Federal Govern-

ment has been to approve the Accelerated Coverage Plan of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, so that each official language community can be served in its own language.

Education

So far as education is concerned, I would like to mention the federal-provincial agreement entered into in 1970 with a view to encouraging the ten provinces to maintain and develop their educational system to serve the official language minority in their own language.

I have already touched on my department's socio-cultural activities which are clearly and directly geared to the development of the minority communities.

I could add to this list and refer for instance to the labelling policy, to the program for assistance to the provinces in the language training of their civil servants and in the translation of their statutes, to the program for assistance to the private sector and to voluntary associations, and to the activities of the federal cultural agencies.

We must also recognize however that a number of means that could help minorities fall within the jurisdiction of the provinces. It was that fact that led the Prime Minister to suggest to the provinces last September, that the linguistic rights of the minorities should be enshrined in the Canadian Constitution. Such an entrenchment would be a keystone in the

protection of minority language rights. It is the Federal Government's hope that the provinces will respond positively to this suggestion.

* * * *

...It is my pleasure to reaffirm today the policy positions of the Federal Government with respect more specifically to the official language minorities and to announce that a *mécanisme d'accueil* will be set up and that the social-action program of the Department of the Secretary of State will be considerably enlarged during the next five years. The principles governing our approach are quite definite but the ways and means of implementing them remain to be settled.

The principles

Language policy is a vital element of Canada's identity, and recognizes that:

- English and French are the official languages of Canada, providing a source of individual and collective enrichment for Canadians;
- the disappearance of official language minorities would jeopardize Canada's unity by reducing the country to two linguistic communities isolated within their own territorial limits;
- the continuing development of official language minorities in all provinces contributes to the openness of Canada's society to a variety of values and cultures.

In order to maintain and develop Canada as a society where citizens of the two official language communities can live, work and communicate on a basis of equality and respect, recognition of the principles of language equality should become part of the fabric of Canadian society:

- each Canadian should be able to choose either official language as a means of personal expression, development, and participation in Canadian society;
- belonging to either official language community should involve neither advantage nor disadvantage to citizens as to services they receive from their governments;
- governments should act to promote linguistic equality, and should not act in a way which restricts it.

The full realization of the above principles throughout Canada requires ongoing efforts by all orders of government and by individual Canadians, to achieve as fully as possible:

- the equality of the English and French languages in the legislatures, the courts, and in legislation;
- access to all levels of education in either official language;
- availability in both official languages of services provided to citizens by the various orders of government;
- availability in both official languages of information from various levels of government;

(Continued on P. 8)

Standing ovation for dedication to Canadian unity

Addressing the Canadian Club of Toronto recently on Canada's economic prospects, Finance Minister Jean Chrétien put aside his prepared text to make an impassioned promise to fight for Canadian unity.

Mr. Chrétien, once a lawyer in Trois Rivières, Quebec, said he once had "argued the other side of the problem" but, one day, another lawyer had suggested he see the rest of the country. When he did he came to realize what Canada had to offer. "Millions of people the world around would give their shirts to have the privilege of being Canadian citizens," he declared.

The Minister, calling for the removal of barriers that divide Canadians, said that one of his proudest moments was when he was Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and he had seen one of the first books printed in Inuit (Eskimo). "The Inuit are living proof that it is possible to be culturally and linguistically different while participating in Canadian life," said Mr. Chrétien.

He asked those in his audience who spoke French to speak to Quebecers and make sure they felt "comfortable" in Canada, as he speaks to English-speaking Canadians. "I know my English isn't perfect - but it's better than your French!"

Mr. Chrétien said that as a Roman Catholic, he had been "warned" about going into other churches but when, as part of his ministerial responsibilities, he had found himself in Anglican churches, he discovered that they were "more Catholic than the Catholic churches".

After 11 years as a federal Cabinet Minister "I've changed my views about Canada," said Mr. Chrétien, whose speech received a standing ovation.

U.S. Vice President's visit maintains momentum of Canada/U.S. relations

"Over-all relationships" and the exploration of "the best directions for the U.S.A. and Canada on a number of issues" was how United States Vice-President Walter F. Mondale described the purpose of his two-day visit to Canada on January 17 and 18. Mr. Mondale was accompanied by his wife and by Senators Robert Stafford of Vermont, William Hathaway of Maine and Wendell Anderson of Minnesota.

Included in their program in Ottawa was a call on the Governor General, meetings with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and other ministers, a lunch given by Speaker of the Senate Renaude Lapointe and Deputy Prime Minister Allan MacEachen and a press conference.

On January 18, the visitors left for Edmonton for discussions on energy and trade with Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed.

During meetings between the Prime Minister and the Vice President, subjects discussed included international matters of current interest, such as the situation in the Middle East and East-West relations. Bilateral talks began in a meeting between Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Mondale and then continued at greater length in discussions with Canadian ministers and the full U.S. delegation.

Joint decisions

To intensify economic co-operation between the two countries, it was decided that meetings would be held in March between economic ministers of the two gov-



Mr. Mondale (left) and Mr. Trudeau meet in Ottawa on January 17.

ernments. Possibly, other meetings would follow.

In discussions on energy, both sides agreed to encourage new short-term gas exports with a so-called "swap-back option" to help facilitate the accelerated construction of the southern section of the Alcan natural gas pipeline.

A U.S.-Canadian study will be completed in 90 days on the establishment of a joint oil-storage facility in the Atlantic provinces which, if feasible, will provide protection in an emergency to both eastern Canada and the U.S.A.

The two countries will also undertake a joint study of ways to increase exchanges of electricity, with a view to saving costs.

Speaking at the press conference on the subject of extra-territorial application of U.S. laws, Mr. Mondale said there had been substantial concern expressed in Canada about this issue. "We have in the past, when pursuing investigations against U.S.A. firms, used the courts to require subsidiaries of U.S.A. corporations in the U.S.A. to respond to the discovery proceedings in the courts of the U.S.A." In future, he said, the Canadian Government would be informed first, following which the information would be sought voluntarily without, however, "waiving the right to pursue our compulsory legal remedy should those voluntary efforts fail".

Mr. Mondale announced that his government was proposing amendments to tax legislation to respond in part to Canadian concern about existing convention expenses legislation. The changes would remove the limitation on the number of conventions held outside the U.S.A. His government is also increasing from \$100 to \$250 the monthly duty free allowance available to returning Americans.

On the subject of multilateral trade negotiations, Mr. Mondale said his government would table in Geneva on January 20, proposals for tariff reductions on natural resources, which, he said, "we think will be attractive to the Canadian Government".

Toast to Mr. Mondale

In a toast to the Vice President, Mrs. Mondale and to the people of the United States, Deputy Prime Minister Allan MacEachen said:

* * * *



Mrs. Mondale (left) and the U.S. Vice President support Iona Campagnolo, Minister responsible for Fitness and Amateur Sport, as she skates on the Rideau Canal

"Last February, Prime Minister Trudeau made an official visit to Washington and again in September to attend the signing of the Panama Canal treaties. Almost all cabinet members on both sides have conducted business with their counterparts in the other's capital. Your visit carries forward this process of close consultation among leaders and provides both you and us with an opportunity to reflect on recent achievements and future challenges. In the course of the past year Canada and the United States have reached major agreements in a number of areas: the trans-boundary pipeline agreement; the agreement to build the natural gas pipeline from Alaska across Canadian territory; the agreement on a new toll structure for the St. Lawrence Seaway; an interim agreement on nuclear co-operation; and an interim fisheries agreement. These are among the most important achievements. Our special negotiators are making good progress towards the delimitation of Maritime boundaries and the settlement of related resource matters. The magnitude, the extent and complexity of relations between Canada and the United States unmatched by any other two countries in the world, do not, of course, permit us at any single point in time to settle all the problems that might arise between us. It is our job, however, to ensure that the issues in the relationship are kept within

manageable proportions, our lines are always kept open, that we can and do consult easily and promptly on policies or actions that might affect the other, that we always find mutually beneficial solutions.

"Now I say, Mr. Vice President, that with yourself and President Carter in office, we have ample evidence that the process is flourishing. We look forward to an equally rewarding and warm relationship in the year ahead."

Unique relationship

Mr. Mondale, in his response, spoke of the "special, unique and marvellous" relationship that existed between the two nations. He also said:

* * * *

"I suppose the most important common denominator is the precious concept of freedom, human liberty and individual justice basic to Canadian society; basic to our own society. And the longer I am in public life, the more I am convinced that that is the most precious resource of all. The simple and total commitment to human liberty, to justice and to freedom. And above all it is that principle that has

bound your country and mine together during all these years and I am sure that we will be together in all the years to come.

* * * *

"You have a remarkable Prime Minister. He is not only a great leader of this country, the Western world regards him as their asset as well. He is the senior head of state, and leader of government among all the NATO governments and I believe the senior head of government of all the industrialized democracies in the world. The meetings between your Prime Minister and our President, Mr. Carter, have been very very successful, beginning with the first meeting in February, the London summit conference and the later meeting at the signing of the Panama Canal treaties. I believe, as your Deputy Prime Minister pointed out, that there has been enormous progress in deepening, in broadening, and in strengthening our relationships in the context of nationally independent nations.

"These visits today, and my visit tomorrow in Edmonton, are designed to help keep the momentum of that progress that has been so impressive."

* * * *

Economic Council head

Sylvia Ostry, Deputy Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs since 1975, has been appointed chairman of the Economic Council of Canada, effective February 1. She succeeds André Raynauld, now a Liberal member of the Quebec legislature.

The Council sponsors understanding and debate among the public about the country's economic prospects and alternatives. An indispensable source of independent advice to governments, it will play a major role in consultations among governments at the forthcoming federal/provincial ministerial meetings and the first ministers' conference.

Dr. Ostry, who has taught labour and manpower economics at four Canadian universities (McGill, Carleton, Sir George Williams, and the University of Montreal), is co-author of a text book on labour economics. She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and a member of the International Statistical Institute.

From 1964 to 1966 she served in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics as assistant director of the Labour Division. In April



Dr. Sylvia Ostry

1969, she was named a director of the Economic Council of Canada and one of its three full-time members. The following year she became vice chairman and held that position until 1972 when she was named Chief Statistician of Canada. In January 1978, she became an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Canada/U.S.S.R. exchange pact

Canada and the Soviet Union recently signed a two-year program of scientific, academic and cultural exchanges for 1978-79 at the fourth session of the Canada/U.S.S.R. Mixed Commission on General Exchanges.

Represented on the Canadian delegation were federal departments and agencies, provincial governments and organizations, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, and representatives from the academic community across Canada.

Exports boosted by EDC

The board of directors of the Export Development Corporation (EDC) recently approved long-term loans, exports credits, surety insurance and foreign-investment guarantees totalling \$111.79 million to support sales of more than \$165.31 million to ten countries - Argentina, Guyana, Ireland, the U.S.S.R., Iran, Pakistan, Haiti, Trinidad-Tobago, Barbados and Czechoslovakia.

Sales are expected to generate more than 18,000 man-years of employment as well as involving at least 50 major sub-suppliers across Canada. Investments supported by foreign-investment guarantees should result in \$74.4 million of benefits to Canada during the next 15 years.

Agreements approved involve the sales of such goods and services as feed mills, banking facilities and forest products.

Reduced bus fares

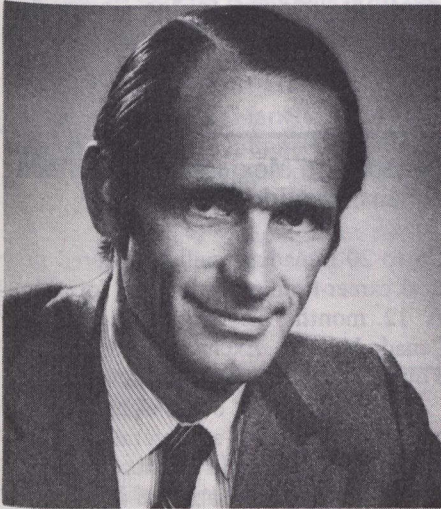
New reduced fares have been introduced by Greyhound and Voyageur Bus Lines and connecting carriers in Canada, which will remain in effect to June 15, 1978.

There are now two "Canadapasses" bus fares. The first fare, \$75 one-way and \$150 round trip, is good for travel between any two points in Canada, with unlimited stop-overs. It is valid for 60 days. The second fare of \$175 is for unlimited travel in Canada, including stop-overs, within a 45-day period. The \$75 one-way fare represents a 33 percent discount on travel from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Winnipeg, Manitoba, or from Quebec City to Vancouver, British Columbia.

News of the arts

Former military chief and university president lead Canada medallists

General J.A. Dextraze, retired Chief of Defence Staff and Dr. John Evans, President, University of Toronto, lead a list of 62 Canadians appointed to the Order of Canada. They were named as new Companions of the Order, with 21 new Officers and 39 new Members, in an announcement from Government House dated January 13.



Dr. John Evans

Dr. Evans, now the Ontario representative on the Task Force on Canadian Unity, has held several positions with the World Health Organization. General Dextraze, who headed the Canadian Armed Forces from 1972 till last year, is now chairman of Canadian National railways.

Hockey player among Officers

Among the Officers are: Bobby Hull, star of the Winnipeg Jets of the World Hockey Association; Garfield Weston, industrialist and philanthropist; Sylvia Ostry, Deputy Minister, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, formerly Chief Statistician (recently appointed Chairman, Economic Council); P.E. Auger, Ontario Deputy Minister, Natural Resources; Harry Boyle, former Chairman, Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission; Simon Reisman, former Deputy Minister, Finance; Keith Spicer, former Commissioner of Official Languages; Henri Bergeron, program host, Radio-Canada; and Jean Ostiguy, Montreal financier.

Some of the Members

Included in the list of 39 new Members are:

Louise Cimon Annett of Montreal,



General J.A. Dextraze

director of Fil d'Ariane Sheltered Workshop, who has spent years helping the mentally retarded; Anthony Anselmo of Calgary, President, Canada Safeway Ltd., who is involved in community work; David Archer, former President, Ontario Federation of Labour; June Callwood, writer and interviewer and civil rights activist who is founding member of several associations; Alfredo Campo, former Chairman, Petrofina Canada Ltd., who has been highly involved in Italian-Canadian affairs; Samuel Cohen, Winnipeg businessman who has been volunteer chairman or member of a host of Jewish and community groups; Jeanne Cypihot, Director, Canadian National Institute for the Blind; Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Douglas,



Bobby Hull

founder of the Canadian Epilepsy Association; Guy Henson, former Director, Institute of Public Affairs at Dalhousie University; Albert Landry of Shawinigan, Quebec, former director of the Shawinigan Institute of Technology, named Man of the Year in his area in 1976; Edwin Mirvish, owner of the Honest Ed's business in Toronto and operator of the Royal Alexandra Theatre; Pipe Major Malcolm Nicholson of Vancouver, who over the years has helped establish pipe bands that have travelled to many places in the world; and Walter Wood, 101, of Kentville, Nova Scotia, who has devoted much of his life to scouting and who is known as Canada's oldest boy scout.

Forest spray policy

A recent policy statement on aerial spraying programs for forest protection, by Environment Minister Len Marchand, stresses the need to control pests, such as spruce budworm, and the need to recognize the dangers of aerial spraying with pesticides.

"The forests of Canada," said Mr. Marchand, "are an important renewable natural resource contributing significantly to the well-being of all Canadians; a serious threat to the forest resource is a potential threat to the economy, and especially to regions where economic opportunities are limited."

The statement points out, however, that although some infested areas may require special pest-control practices, it is known that pesticides may have long-term detrimental effects on other resources in the environment. There are even some fears, not substantiated by clear evidence, that human health may be affected by some pesticides currently being used in forest spraying.

Main principles of the Department's policy include:

- The recognition that responsibility rests with provincial agencies and other forest managers for forest-management practices that minimize damage by insects and disease.
- Consideration of aerial spraying only as a last resort when other methods of pest control have failed.
- Reduction of spraying operations to a necessary minimum.
- Continuing research into alternative control strategies, including biological control.

Canada signs updated nuclear agreement with European Community

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, announced the signing, on January 16, of a nuclear co-operation pact between the Government of Canada and the European Atomic Energy Community. The agreement is an updating of the one existing between Canada and the European Atomic Energy Community for Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, which was signed in October 1959.

Reprinted below, from the joint communiqué issued in Brussels, are the main provisions of the amended agreement:

(1) No material, subject to the agreement as amended, may be used for the manufacture of any nuclear weapon or for any other military use of nuclear energy, or for the manufacture of any other nuclear explosive device.

(2) This undertaking and other provisions of the agreement will be verified in Canada by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and in the Community by Euratom and the IAEA in accordance with the agreements concluded between Euratom, its member states and the IAEA.

(3) IAEA verification will cover:

- all nuclear facilities and equipment transferred under the agreement for the life of these facilities and equipment, and
- all nuclear material (uranium, thorium, plutonium and heavy water) supplied, and future generations of this material.

(4) Internationally recognized levels of physical protection will be applied as minima to ensure against diversion of nuclear material.

(5) Provisions for fallback safeguards are agreed upon by the two parties in case IAEA/Euratom safeguards are not being applied.

(6) The Community recognizes that Canada requires specific assurances prior to the transfer of Canadian nuclear technology. The Community and Canada have agreed that transfers of sensitive nuclear technology, including CANDU technology, would be covered by agreements to be concluded between individual member states of the Community and the Government of Canada.

(7) Control over retransfers of nuclear material and equipment is provided in the 1959 Agreement.

(8) Assurances are provided that no Canadian material will be used in French reactors until safeguards administered by Euratom, and verified by the IAEA, are in place. Assurances are also provided that any plutonium derived from Canadian source material would only be used in the French civilian nuclear program.

(9) An interim arrangement is being entered into to govern enrichment beyond 20 per cent, reprocessing and subsequent storage of plutonium and highly enriched uranium.

• Canada and the Community have agreed to co-operate both bilaterally and internationally to identify arrangements to ensure that every precaution is taken with respect to the generation and dissemination of material that can be used for nuclear weapons. They recognize as well the need to meet legitimate energy requirements. In view of the participation of Canada, and of the Commission of the European Communities, and the member states of Euratom in the International Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE), which will examine reprocessing, enrichment and storage, the parties have agreed on an interim arrangement covering those operations as they apply to Canadian-origin material.

• The Community will notify Canada prior to reprocessing, enriching or storing any material transferred after December 20, 1974 (which is the date on which the Canadian Government laid down its new policy requirements). In addition, Canada has requested, and the Community has agreed, to provide information on planned reprocessing of material transferred before December 20, 1974. In both cases, consultations will take place on request to ensure that adequate safeguards for the operation contemplated are in place in order that any risks of nuclear proliferation may be avoided. The consultations will enable each party to exchange information on the nature and purpose of reprocessing, enrichment and storage of Canadian origin material and in time help develop criteria that might ensure that these operations are conducted in a manner fully compatible with non-proliferation. A meeting will be held of the Joint Technical Working Group of the Community and Canada early in 1978 to work out appropriate modalities for notification and consultations.

• Canadian supplies of uranium in the interim period will be limited broadly to the current needs of the Community.

• The interim arrangement will last for the expected duration of the INFCE plus one year to allow the negotiation of a more permanent arrangement and may be renewed or extended only with the agreement of both parties.

(10) Following the agreement outlined in this exchange of letters, the Canadian Government has decided to resume shipments of uranium to the Community, which had been suspended since January 1977.

Canada and Mexico exchange technicians, provide training

Up to 20 Canadians will be offered practical career-training in Mexico for as long as 12 months, as part of the 1978-79 Canada-Mexico Exchange Program for Young Specialists and Technicians.

The program, to begin in late September, is the result of a bilateral agreement signed by Canada and Mexico in 1973 to enable young Canadians and Mexicans to gain practical experience in their field, and to learn about each other's cultures, while encouraging closer relations between the two countries.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens, age 18 to 30, with a working knowledge of Spanish and a university degree or post-secondary diploma.

Areas of training may include: agriculture, anthropology, archaeology, architecture, astronomy, biochemistry, biology, demography, ethnology, journalism, social medicine, tropical ecology and tropical medicine.

The National Council for Science and Technology in Mexico selects young Mexican specialists and technicians for training in Canada. Canadian companies will be asked to provide training for the Mexican candidates.

The Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, on behalf of the Department of External Affairs, is recruiting and selecting Canadians.

Canadian delegate Coline Campbell recently announced contributions of \$1.6 million in cash and \$2.5 million in food grants to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees at the annual UNRWA pledging conference.

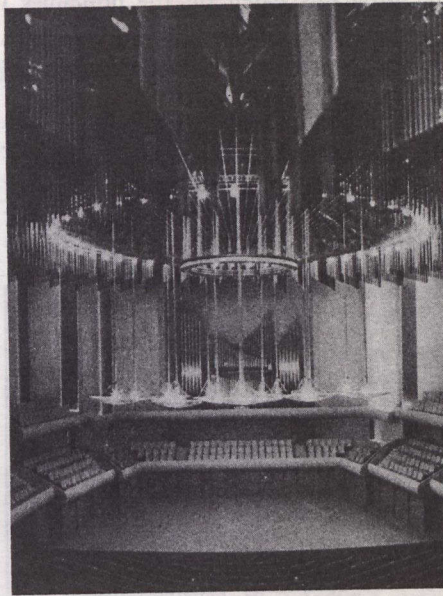
News of the arts

Concert stage finds new home

Toronto's new Massey Hall, to cost an estimated \$34 million, will be part of a project called Downtown West, containing the theatre, three offices and commercial buildings and a park. Nine million dollars have been allocated by the Secretary of State, \$10 million by the Ontario lottery and \$5 million by Metro Toronto Council.

A crew of experts is working with the architectural firm, Erickson, Mathers and Haldenby to match the excellence of the acoustics with those of the old Massey Hall. Canadian weaver Mariette Rousseau-Vermette has been commissioned to design the acoustical banners that will hang in the new building.

If the entire \$34 million can be raised, the new structure will be ready in October 1980.



View of the interior model for Toronto's new Massey Hall.

New records for Arts Centre

A total of 763,320 patrons purchased tickets to performances at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa during the July 1976 to June 1977 season, paying a total of \$4,164,600.13 to attend 827 shows there in that period.

During the year, the 46-member National Arts Centre Orchestra, in addition to its resident season, gave 26 performances on tour in Canadian cities such as Rouyn, Quebec and Victoria, British Columbia. L'Hexagone, a professional French-speaking touring company, gave 154 performances before a total audience of 56,340 students in Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The Centre's theatre department presented a record number of 18 productions written or adapted by Canadians. It also presented: 14 visiting Canadian companies from Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia; 11 in-house productions; and seven foreign companies representing Britain, France, the United States, Austria and Switzerland.

Another of the season's highlights was the production of Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* during the Centre's annual July festival of opera and chamber music, starring Canadians Jon Vickers and Maureen Forrester.

Writer exchange

The Canada Council has instituted a new writer-in-residence exchange program between Canada and Scotland.

Under the terms of a joint agreement between the Canada Council and the Scottish Arts Council, Glendon College of York University, Toronto will receive a Scottish writer, and the University of Edinburgh a Canadian writer, as writer-in-residence, from October 1, 1978 to June 30, 1979.

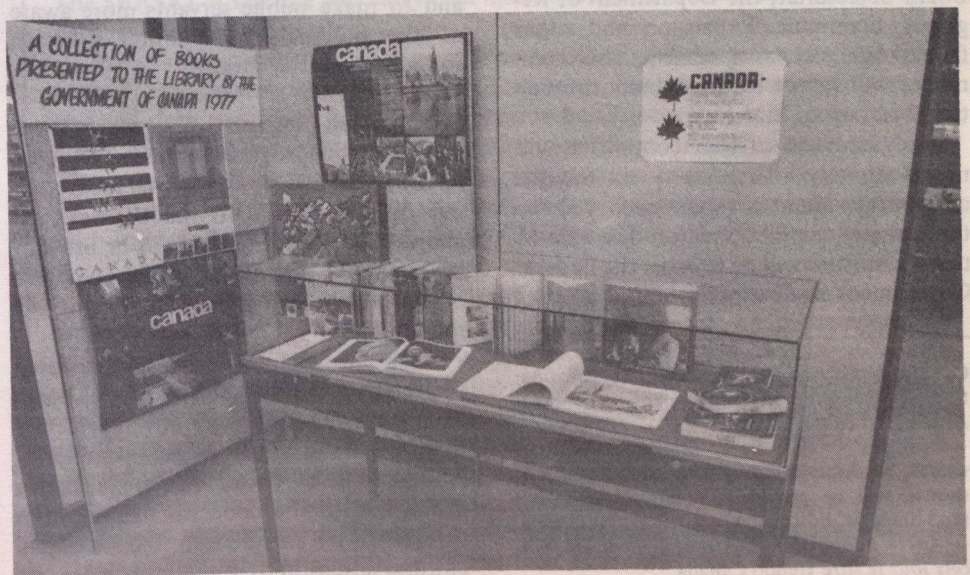
The aim of this exchange, according to Naim Kattan, head of the Writing and Publications Section of the Canada Council, is to strengthen the long-standing ties between Canada and Scotland: "I believe it is a valuable and enriching experience for a writer to be, in effect, an exponent of the literature of his own country in the writer-in-residence situation while being exposed to the culture of another. Canada and Scotland have historic and cultural links. We should take advantage of them."

The writer will travel, give lectures and readings, and participate in seminars and literary meetings. An important part of his duties will be engaging in the literary life of the university and making himself available to students for consultation.

The host country will assume accommodation costs for the visiting writer, and the writer's country will cover return travel fares for him and his immediate de-

pendents. The fellowship for the Canadian writer will be £5,000 and the Scottish writer will receive \$17,000.

The exchange program is open to English-speaking writers who have had a successful writing career over several years, have some notable accomplishments to their credit and are still active in their profession.



Macquarie University, North Ryde, the newest of three universities in the Sydney, Australia area, recently established a Canadian Studies program. During a "Canada Seminar", held on November 1 of last year, the university library exhibited some of the 800 volumes donated by the Canada Council and presented by the Canadian Consulate General in Sydney since the commencement of a book donation program.

Language minorities' assistance

(Continued from P. 2)

- availability in English and French of publicly-funded broadcasting;
- opportunities for all Canadians to pursue their personal goals either in Canada's English-speaking community, or its French-speaking community, or in both.

* * * *

"Mécanisme d'accueil"

The *mécanisme d'accueil* is intended to provide an opportunity for dialogue, communication and consultation with the French-speaking minorities in the implementation of the Secretary of State's programs for official language minorities. It is an important mandate of the Secretary of State to assume the role of spokesman for the *francophones* outside Quebec and to transmit, if need be, their requests and comments to his Cabinet colleagues in cooperation with the Members of Parliament who share these concerns.

The second important element of that *mécanisme* is the establishment of an interdepartmental committee to be chaired by the Assistant Under-Secretary of State for Citizenship and Bilingualism Development. The committee will be made up of senior officials from the Department of Employment and Immigration, the Department of National Health and Welfare, the Federal-Provincial Relations Office, the Privy Council Office, the Treasury Board Secretariat, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and other federal agencies, as necessary. This committee will report to the Cabinet through the Secretary of State.

The members of that committee will report directly to me every six months and I will submit a report each year to the Cabinet on its activities. The role of the committee will be to assist the Federal Government in developing sound policies

Canada Weekly is published by the Information Services Division, 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.

Ähnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.

and programs based on the principles I have referred to above. The third element, is the integration, within one directorate in the Department of the Secretary of State, of the language programs branch and the social action branch. A senior official to be appointed to that directorate will also act as secretary of the interdepartmental committee. In each region

Students' rights supported

The 66-member provincial council of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation recently voted to support the right of all Ontario students to be taught either in English or French.

The Federation represents some 37,000 secondary school teachers in Ontario.

an officer of the Secretary of State will be designated to act as a channel of communication to government for the special concerns of official language minorities. I must however state clearly that his *mécanisme d'accueil* will not supersede the traditional role of the Members of Parliament as representatives of their constituents. As in the past, each group or individual can of course still go to his M.P. for assistance. It is hoped that the effect of the *mécanisme d'accueil* will be to adjust the structures of the Public Service and to make public servants more aware of the political and cultural situation found in minority groups.

Social action program

As far as this program is concerned, I announced in the House last October that the funds available to the Official Language Minorities Program will be brought up from \$30 to \$75 million in the course of the next five years, an increase of \$45 million.

That program will be administered under criteria to be set up as far as possible in consultation with the representatives of the official language minority groups. These criteria could deal for instance with the concerns of minorities threatened by assimilation, the social and cultural situation of the minority groups, the previous assistance received from the various levels of government, the impact of the minority groups' activities or projects on the whole of the communities concerned, the contribution of the pro-

jects or activities to the attainment of the objectives and principles that have been established, and with other themes that could be proposed later by the groups or by the Department.

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...The Federal Government will use its political and administrative powers to improve the operations of its agencies both for the adoption of new measures designed to give higher quality services to minority groups and for a concerted effort that will lead the various levels of government to give an appropriate response, in consultation with the minorities, to the concerns voiced by the *francophone* minorities.

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News briefs

A Canadian Government aircraft carrying Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Hugh Faulkner, narrowly escaped a mid-air collision near Anchorage International Airport on January 20. The pilot of the eight-passenger jet swerved off-course to avoid colliding with a larger aircraft that appeared out of thick cloud.

Canada and Romania have signed a bilateral fisheries treaty allowing Romania to fish within the Canadian 200-mile limit while recognizing Canada's interest in the management of fish stocks beyond 200 miles.

Harold Ballard, principal owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, has purchased the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the Canadian Football League. The undisclosed price is between the asking price of \$1.5 million and Mr. Ballard's offer of \$1.2 million.

Production of primary copper is expected to total about 737,000 tonnes this year, down 5.6 per cent from last year, Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Alastair Gillespie says.

The Italian gold medal for civil valour has been presented to Canadian Forces Europe (CFE). The award recognizes the Canadian military contribution to relief operations following the March 1976 earthquake in the Friuli region of north-east Italy. A gold medal was also presented posthumously to Captain Ronald McBride of Toronto, a Canadian Forces helicopter pilot killed during the operation.