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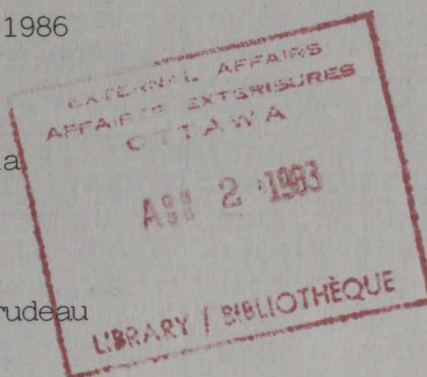
Canada

newsletter

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*Members of the European and Canadian Parliaments
meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland, 8-12 May*

NORTH-ATLANTIC ISSUES FROM A NEW ANGLE: THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VISITS ST. JOHN'S

The XIth interparliamentary meeting between delegations from the European and Canadian Parliaments took place in St. John's, Newfoundland in the second week of May. The 14-member Canadian delegation was led by Miss Aideen Nicholson, M.P., Chairman of the Canada-European Parliamentary Association of the Canadian Parliament. Sir James Scott-Hopkins (United Kingdom) led the European Parliament's delegation of 17 who represented the major political groups in the Community. Mr. Wilhelm Helms (Germany) was the European delegation's first vice-chairman and Mr. Derek Enright (United Kingdom) acted as second vice-chairman.

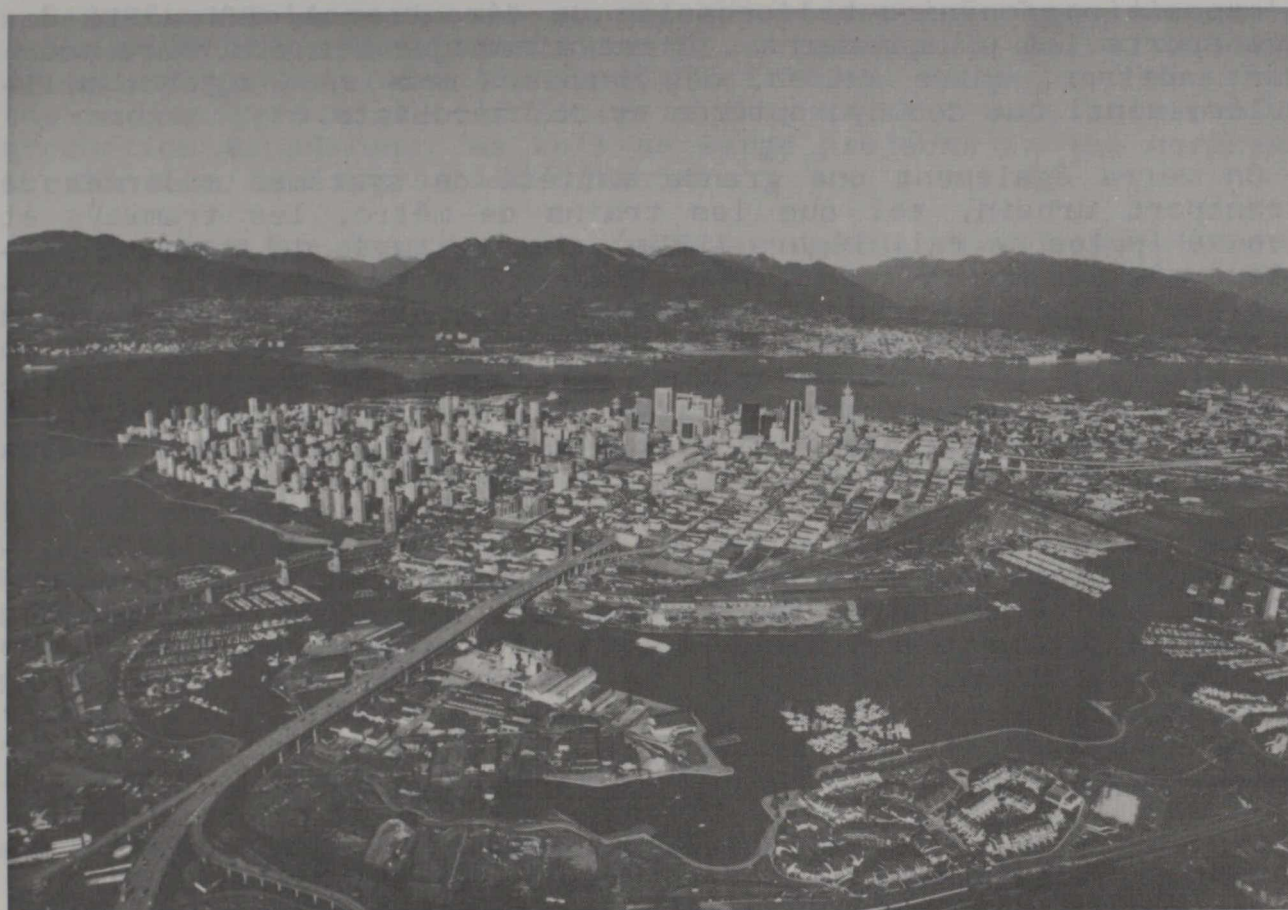
These discussions are held annually. They take place alternately in Europe and in Canada, usually in cities other than the seats of the two parliaments. This year St. John's, Newfoundland, was selected as the site since the city is celebrating its 400th anniversary. St. John's is also the constituency of one of the executive members of the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association, the Hon. James McGrath.

The meeting consisted of five working sessions covering a wide range of bilateral and international issues. Among the former were the Canada-EC Fisheries Agreement, trends in Canada/EC trade, specific trade issues, particularly access for Canadian newsprint exports to the Community and Canadian import actions on footwear, the Arctic Pilot Project for natural gas, and the workings of the EC-Canada Framework Agreement. Discussions of international questions included the nuclear arms debate, the dangers of multilateral trade protectionism and the problem of acid rain common to both North America and Europe. The implications of Greenland's withdrawal from the EC was also examined.

There was recognition by both delegations of the need for a return to the spirit behind the bilateral fisheries agreement in order to resolve the current problems of quota allocation and product access. The fisheries issue was also raised by the Hon. Pierre DeBané, the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who hosted a luncheon for the group, as was Canada's position on Community sealskin import restrictions. Mr. DeBané conveyed the concerns of Canada's government and industry about the way in which the Community has managed the bilateral fisheries regime. He appealed to the Euro-MPs to see to it that the EC honours its treaty obligations and international law on both the fisheries and the seal products questions. It was agreed to examine the possibility of establishing small working groups of parliamentarians to study these and other specific bilateral problems.

On the multilateral side, despite some divergent approaches on security and disarmament, the two delegations reached overall agreement on the significance of public concern on both sides of the Atlantic at the dangers of nuclear war and on the urgent need for a successful outcome to the current INF talks in Geneva. They also accepted the necessity of improving the existing trade arrangements, which, though based firmly on the principles of an open trading environment, were frequently subject to restrictive practices.

The delegations are expected to meet in the European Community for the 12th annual exchange during the course of 1984.



*La ville et port de Vancouver,
site de l'Exposition 86 sur les transports*

Une imposante exposition internationale se tiendra à Vancouver, le centre économique et portuaire de la Colombie-Britannique, en 1986. Le thème de l'Exposition portera sur "Les transports et les communications connexes". Pour la première fois, une exposition internationale sur le transport se déroulera à l'extérieur de l'Europe. Ce sera également la première exposition à s'en tenir exclusivement à son thème et ce depuis l'exposition de Munich en 1965.

Bien qu'il reste encore trois ans avant l'ouverture de l'exposition, quinze pays y sont déjà inscrits outre le pays hôte. Ce sont, dans l'ordre de leur inscription: la Grande-Bretagne, St. Vincent, la Dominique, le Montserrat, le Kuwait, le Kenya, le Sénégal, l'Arabie Saoudite, les Etats-Unis, le Pérou, l'Indonésie, l'Australie, la France, la Côte d'Ivoire et l'Espagne.

De plus, l'intérêt suscité par l'événement dépasse les frontières de ces quinze pays. En effet, 80 représentants et observateurs ont récemment assisté à une réunion de planification au Canada. On remarquait parmi les participants des délégués de la majorité des pays des Communautés européennes.

L'emplacement de l'exposition se situe au centre ville sur les rives du Pacifique: l'accès aux hôtels, au centre des affaires et aux divertissements n'en sera que facilité. Prenant avantage de la profondeur des eaux, les organisateurs prévoient le rassem-

blement de grands voiliers; des courses se dérouleront entre certains ports du Pacifique.

Les besoins de déplacer les visiteurs entre les pavillons de l'exposition fourniront l'occasion de démontrer l'efficacité des transports les plus modernes. C'est ainsi que les visiteurs pourront admirer, entre autres, des derniers modèles d'autobus articulés, ainsi que des hydroptères et des aérostats.

On verra également une grande variété de systèmes modernes de transport urbain, tel que les trains de métro, les tramways et les véhicules de rail légers (LRVs), les voitures de train de banlieue, les trains y compris les trains légers, rapides et confortables (LRC) déjà en service aux Etats-Unis. Il y aura des autobus diesel, des trolley bus et des autobus interurbains; en plus on y verra la dernière génération des accessoires de transport, entre autres, les systèmes de nettoyage des intérieurs d'autobus qui accomplissent cette tâche en deux minutes, et les abris d'autobus les plus modernes.

Les récents sondages indiquent qu'il y aura environ 16.5 millions de visiteurs du continent nord-américain, dont la moitié viendra des Etats-Unis. On n'a pas encore évalué le nombre des visiteurs d'outre-mer mais EXPO 86 espère attirer un total de 19 millions de visiteurs.

MARKETING OBJECTIVES FOR CANADIAN NATURAL GAS

Since mid-1982 the Canadian government and the natural gas industry have undertaken an intensive examination of marketing objectives for Canadian natural gas. Looking ahead at potential new markets they have been discussing how best to manage Canada's surplus with flexibility and innovation with a view to establishing a reputation as a secure long term supplier.

Canada is fortunate in having huge resources of existing and yet to be discovered natural gas. The National Energy Board now estimates marketable gas reserves at over two trillion cubic metres of gas in conventional producing areas alone. Another three to four trillion exist in frontier areas, including the arctic islands. This represents somewhere between 16 and 21 per cent of the total gas reserves of OECD countries.

Canadian natural gas will be attractive to purchasers because it represents a secure source of potentially large volumes of long term, fairly priced gas. Exports are unlikely to be curtailed due to domestic needs, because present marketing strategies are based only on the surplus which has been declared after large reserves have been set aside for Canada's future requirements. While the major market for Canadian gas at the present is the USA, these same considerations are attractive to European purchasers, and there have already been discussions between Canadian and European companies about possible future arrangements. It is worth keeping in mind that the distance for transporting natural gas from the Canadian arctic to northern Europe is no greater than to the American eastern seaboard.

During 1982 the Canadian Government reconfirmed its policy of ensuring as far as possible that volumes found surplus to Canadian gas market requirements are made available for export. It noted that the industry has not developed its full potential; it is

capable of responding promptly to opportunity; it could contribute significantly to Canada's economic growth; and it is potentially an important creator of new jobs.

Significant increases of supply are possible in both the short and medium term. The former depends on gearing up the utilization of existing plant and transport facilities. Large increases in the medium term will be made up of many, widespread, incremental production expansions, as well as large projects in the northern territories, the arctic and offshore.

As markets for Canadian gas increase during this decade, a series of marketing initiatives will be taken to ensure that the opportunities are fully exploited. Canadian companies involved in natural gas exploration and production have been advised to tailor every sales proposal according to the unique requirements of each buyer and to recognize that contract terms must be flexible. Federal and provincial governments and the industry intend to pursue and maintain contacts with purchasers in the USA, the EEC and elsewhere.

Government and industry have also agreed that export pricing policies must be flexible and practical. It should be the objective to establish prices that return to the Canadian sellers a price approaching commodity value - the real value of natural gas relative to alternative energy forms (appropriate to the segments of the market being served by Canadian natural gas) available. From the customer's perspective, prices must be seen to be predictable, reliable and equitable.

In light of these discussions, 47 exploration agreements for rights in arctic and offshore sites were negotiated during 1982, covering some 26 million hectares. Further agreements have been, and remain to be, negotiated this year.

VERS UNE NOUVELLE POLITIQUE DE LA RADIOTELEDIFFUSION

Les technologies de pointe multiplient à la fois le nombre et le rayonnement des signaux de radio et de télévision de toute origine que l'on peut capter au Canada. Malgré leurs promesses de retombées intéressantes et multiples, ces innovations risquent de miner la vie culturelle canadienne et de saper les fondements mêmes de son système de radiotélédiffusion. Le double souci de tirer parti de l'évolution des technologies et d'assurer le développement dynamique de la culture canadienne a incité le gouvernement à repenser ses orientations en matière de culture et de radiotélédiffusion.

Suivant les recommandations d'un Comité d'étude, le gouvernement vient d'adopter les mesures suivantes:

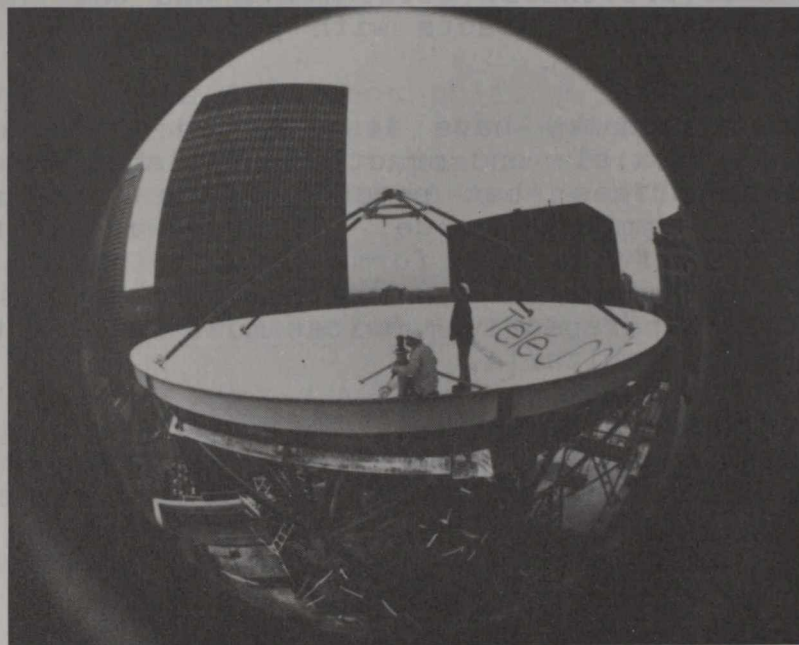
- Elargissement du choix des émissions. Sous réserve de dispositions contractuelles et d'accords internationaux, les Canadiens devraient avoir accès, grâce surtout à la télédistribution, à une vaste gamme d'émissions satellisées provenant des quatre coins du globe. On est actuellement en train d'étendre et de perfectionner le volet satellisé.

- Enrichissement de la programmation canadienne. On créera bientôt un Fonds de développement de la production d'émissions canadiennes qui sera destiné aux sociétés de production et aux producteurs indépendants. Administré par la Société de développement de

l'industrie cinématographique canadienne, le Fonds verra ses crédits passer de 35 millions de dollars au cours de la première année à 60 millions au bout de cinq ans.

- Pouvoir d'orienter la politique. Vu le rythme du progrès technique, le gouvernement doit être en mesure d'adapter rapidement sa politique de radiotélédiffusion aux possibilités et défis qui se présentent. Les questions relatives à la teneur des émissions demeureront la responsabilité du radiotélédiffuseur, qui continuera à relever de la CRTC (Commission indépendante) en matière de réglementation et de surveillance.

- Suppression, pour les particuliers, des restrictions concernant les stations réceptrices. Bon nombre de Canadiens des régions rurales et éloignées qui ne bénéficient pas du câble, ont recours aux antennes paraboliques. Les exigences touchant la délivrance de licences aux antennes paraboliques ainsi qu'aux systèmes à antenne collective ont été adoucies.



*Une station réceptrice du Télésat:
on adapte la politique à la nouvelle technologie*

Par ailleurs, le nouvel environnement exigera une révision constante des lois et règlements régissant la radiotélédiffusion. En plus des quatre politiques déjà adoptées, le gouvernement entamera une discussion publique sur huit autres mesures:

- une participation accrue du secteur privé;
- l'accroissement de programmation en langue française tant au Québec que dans les autres régions du Canada;
- une exportation poussée des émissions de télévision canadiennes;
- un meilleur équilibre des services de radiotélédiffusion offerts partout au Canada;
- la disponibilité des services aux autochtones correspondant à leurs exigences en matière linguistique et culturelle;
- l'adoption d'un cadre réglementaire souple qui tient compte des techniques nouvelles et des valeurs canadiennes;
- une révision de la législation pour mieux définir les responsabilités du Parlement et de la CRTC;
- un rendement accru du secteur public, surtout de Radio-Canada, ainsi que l'accroissement de la teneur canadienne de ses programmes.

MANITOBA

Manitoba, twice as big as the British Isles, lies in the geographic centre of Canada on the edge of the prairies and next to the coniferous forests and granite outcrops of the great Canadian shield. In the north, where the Province touches Hudson's Bay, it is a land of muskeg and tundra. Manitoba is blessed with an abundance of fresh water, including three huge lakes, Winnipeg (a tidal lake bigger than Lake Ontario), Manitoba and Winnipegosis.

Some 585,000 people live in Winnipeg, the capital and single big city of the Province. Winnipeg has an exciting history, closely linked with the conquest and development of the Canadian West. It is undoubtedly this, as well as its distinguished fine arts, particularly ballet, which merit the triple star rating by the Michelin guide.

Economically, Manitoba is in a holding pattern; times have been worse but they could be better. In the early and mid-1970s, the Province's economic indicators were among the most discouraging in the country. Since then things have improved relatively. Manitoba is now doing as well as most of the other provinces, better than some. The population, which fell between 1978 and 1980, is climbing again - it is now an estimated 1,033,000. The cost of living is lower in Manitoba than the Canadian average. The Province had a 10.9 per cent inflation rate last year, compared with 12.5 for all Canada. This year it is expected to fall slightly. Long-term prospects are pretty good. Large scale investment plans are afoot, and central Winnipeg is getting a \$96 million overhaul.

Agriculture is one of Manitoba's most important economic activities. The most significant crops are grain, particularly wheat. Saskatchewan grows more wheat, and Alberta almost as much, but Manitoba has much of the marketing machinery - the Wheat Board and the Winnipeg Commodity Exchange are in downtown Winnipeg - and the centre of Canadian grain research is at the University of Manitoba. Manitoba's agriculture (unlike that of Saskatchewan or Alberta) has a great variety; it includes market gardening vegetables like potatoes and brussels sprouts, and livestock.

Manitoba's lakes hold eighty species of freshwater fish - the greatest variety in North America, but only fifteen are harvested commercially. Yellow pickerel and whitefish are 75 per cent of the catch, followed by perch, pike, tullibee, lake trout, yellow perch and mullet. The catch, second only to Ontario's, totalled 48.5 million pounds in 1981/82. It was marketed by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation in Winnipeg (which markets all prairie fish) and brought an estimated \$42 million. Most of the harvest goes to the American market.

The market for the province's main minerals, copper and nickel, has been hurt by a slackening demand in the United States for steel, autos, housing and durable goods. The forestry industry has also suffered from the recession. Commercial forests extend over 40 per cent of the Province's land area, but high interest rates and low housing starts have hurt the sale of lumber. Inventories increased by 27.8 per cent in 1981, and this has caused short-term layoffs of workers.

Manufacturing is a bright spot. Employment has remained constant

at around 66,000. Manitoba's garment, furniture, food and machinery plants serve the expanding markets of western Canada and are suffering less from the recession than their eastern counterparts. Winnipeg is a centre for the manufacture of aircraft components, buses and railway rolling stock, much of which is exported to the USA.

EN BREF

LE PREMIER MINISTRE TRUDEAU A WILLIAMSBURG

Le Premier Ministre du Canada, M. Pierre Trudeau, s'est déclaré très satisfait des résultats de Williamsburg. Le Canada avait deux objectifs en ce qui concerne la déclaration sur la sécurité: présenter un front uni face à l'URSS et assurer le maximum d'engagement politique pour un accord sur la réduction des armements. Sur les questions économiques, le Canada a mis l'accent sur trois choses en particulier: la recherche de la stabilité des prix et de l'approvisionnement de l'énergie, l'arrêt de nouvelles entraves au commerce international, et la réalisation de progrès substantiels dans le dialogue nord-sud. En marge du sommet, M. Trudeau s'est entretenu en tête-à-tête avec le Président de la Commission, M. Gaston Thorn, ainsi qu'avec certains autres participants.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN CANADA

The Foreign Investment Review Act (FIRA), designed to ensure that foreign investment in Canada is of significant benefit to Canadians, has been in place for more than eight years. During this period the Agency which administers the Act has allowed about 90% of all applications. New measures to streamline application procedures were introduced in June 1982 and have already had a measurable effect. In the third quarter of 1982 the Agency ruled on 310 applications compared to 194 in the previous quarter. Of the 310 cases studied, 94 per cent were allowed. During 1980 direct investment from EEC countries amounted to 9,550 million Canadian dollars, more than double the figure for 1972. Investment from the EEC has risen steadily each year by an average of 9.5 per cent.

TELECOM 83

The fourth world telecommunications exhibition will be held in Geneva in October 1983. Already 22 Canadian exhibitors have been registered at this important fair which brings together world leaders and specialists in telecommunications. Some of them will be planning to meet and exhibit again at the world exposition to be held in Vancouver in 1986, where the theme will be transport and related communications.

ENERGEX 84

Le deuxième Forum international de l'énergie (ENERGEX) aura lieu à Regina, capitale de la Province de Saskatchewan, du 14 au 19 mai 1984. Le Forum présentera une conférence internationale et une exposition sur le thème de l'auto-suffisance. Les organisateurs viennent d'inviter la soumission de communications sur une variété de sujets sous les titres de nouvelles formes d'énergie, d'énergie renouvelable et de conservation d'énergie.

