

# Canada Weekly

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## Sahel development plan adopted at Ottawa meeting

Representatives from eight West African nations, and from aid-donor countries and organizations, recently adopted a long-term economic development strategy and a program of action for the drought-prone region of the Sahel, one of the poorest areas in the world.

The strategy, which is aimed at ensuring self-sufficiency in food for the area, was approved by the Club of the Friends of the Sahel, meeting in Ottawa at the invitation of the Canadian Government from May 30 to June 2. (See also *Canada Weekly* dated April 20, 1977, Page 3.)

Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), is one of the countries that provided assistance to the Sahel countries in their fight against drought and will continue to do so in conformity with Canadian Government policy to give priority in its aid programs abroad, to the less-developed countries. It was therefore in a spirit of international solidarity with the Sahel countries, and in co-operation with the other aid donors, that Canada welcomed to Ottawa the members of the Club for its

*Far from home, a herdsman and his son wait, their livestock now dead. Like many victims of the West African drought they do not know their family's fate, for they took the animals into less-arid areas in search of water and food.*



IDRC photo

second plenary session since it was set up in Dakar, Senegal, in March

## The Sahel

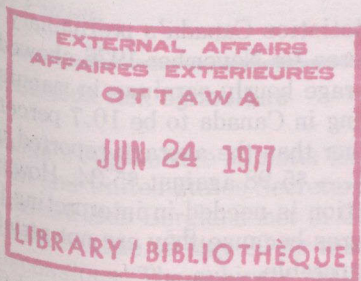
The Sahelian zone is composed of five countries: Mauritania, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger and Chad. From the point of view of geographical similarities, however, the zone also includes Senegal, Gambia, the Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia.

This vast area of inland territory has encountered the greatest difficulties in trying to recover from the 1973 drought, the effects of which will apparently not be eliminated for a whole generation. This kind of disaster is not new, for it is estimated that the Sahel has been hit by 21 long periods of drought since the sixteenth century. Opinions vary about why the phenomenon recurs, and about the hypothesis that the 1968-1974 drought is linked to a trend toward an even drier climate and an increase in the area covered by

desert.

The gross domestic product for five of the Sahelian countries, namely Chad, Niger, Mali, Upper Volta and Mauritania, is about \$2 billion, giving a *per capita* annual income of approximately \$110 to some 20 million inhabitants (slightly less than the population of Canada). But account should also be taken of the regional disparities within the zone: between \$69 and \$100 in Upper Volta, Mali, Niger and Chad, but \$170 in Mauritania because of its mining industry.

Experts are disturbed by the debts that the Sahelian countries have accumulated since the 1968-74 drought. In the space of a few years Chad's debts have increased tenfold and those of Niger sevenfold, and some countries are on the verge of bankruptcy. In early 1976 repayment of debts exceeded the amount of aid received.



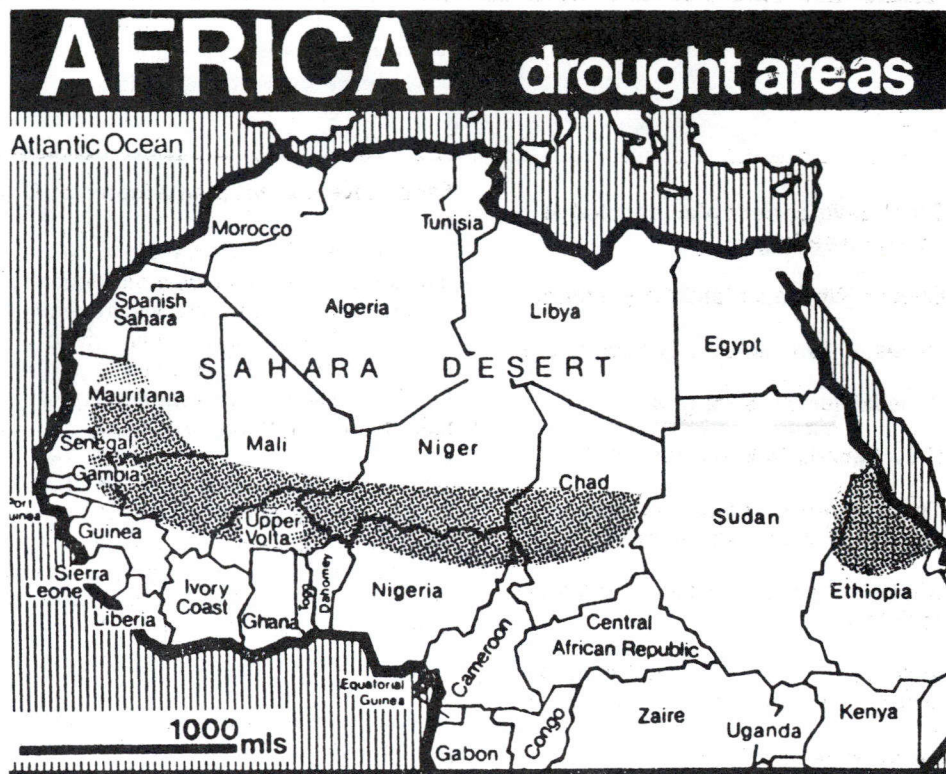
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of last year.

Details of the economic plan were given at a press conference in Ottawa on June 2 by Boulama Manga, Rural Development Minister of Niger and Co-ordinator of the CILSS\*, and Jean-Pierre Goyer, Canadian Minister of Supply and Services, who jointly chaired the Club's working sessions.

The strategy notably provides for a first-generation development program (1978-1982), estimated to cost at least \$3 billion. A statement adopted by the Club says: "...this program constitutes a decisive step in implementing the strategy and will serve as a guide for donors in the selection of projects to be financed over the next few years." Many donors and institutions informed the conference of planned increases in their financial contributions. Official aid commitments to the region in 1976 reached about \$850 million, almost double the level of financial assistance committed in 1973.

The primary object of the long-term strategy is to achieve food self-sufficiency, despite difficult climatic conditions, leading to self-sustaining economic and social development for the CILSS nations. The first-generation program seeks specifically to: develop water resources, protect crops, combat



desertification through reforestation, improve fisheries, livestock and agricultural productivity, and strengthen regional training and research programs.

Set up with the support of donor countries to the Organization for Economic

Co-operation and Development, the Club of the Friends of the Sahel seeks to reinforce the efforts of the CILSS and other international bodies and to help mobilize resources for the development of the Sahel.

**CIDA Sahel program**

CIDA's Sahel program was launched in 1974-1975. With a total budget of \$230 million for the 1975-1980 period, it is the biggest and most complex Canadian international co-operation program, making Canada one of the main sources of aid in the region.

In order to administer a program of this size, the Agency has set up a special branch with offices at its Ottawa headquarters, and in Upper Volta, Mali and Niger.

Canada's Sahel program has four components which contribute to international aid to the Sahel: the Sahel rehabilitation program (\$80 million); food aid to the Sahel (\$60 million); the Niger and Senegal program (\$60 million); and the Pan-African Telecommunications network, PANAFTEL (\$30 million).

\* CILSS (permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought-Control in the Sahel). Members are: Chad, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Upper Volta and Cape Verde Islands.

**Quebec/Newfoundland ferry service**

A contract has been awarded to Northern Cruiser Ltd., of St. John's, Newfoundland, to provide improved ferry service between St. Barbe, Nfld. and Blanc Sablon, Quebec, for five years. The firm will receive an annual operating subsidy of \$525,000 from the Federal Government to provide and operate an end-loading ferry, the MV *Northern Cruiser*.

The vessel, built in 1962, began service at the end of May. To support the improved ferry service, Transport Canada will build end-loading shore facilities at both ports at a total cost of \$835,000. This will enable the *Northern Cruiser* to operate safely and efficiently and reduce loading delays.

The *Northern Cruiser*, which was formerly used on the Matane-Godbout service in Quebec, carries about 100 people and the equivalent of 30 automobiles and will be able to handle increasing traffic and larger vehicles.

**Wages - Canada/U.S. comparison**

Statistics Canada's preliminary figures for November 1976 showed average hourly earnings in manufacturing in Canada to be 10.7 percent higher than the average reported in the U.S. - \$5.98 against \$5.34. However, caution is needed in interpreting the figures because they are not strictly comparable.

The Canadian survey excluded firms employing fewer than 20 employees, while the U.S. survey covers establishments of all sizes.

The figures for both countries are gross earnings before taxation and unemployment insurance deductions, but exclude fringe benefits which are considered to be higher in the U.S.

The Canadian average first surpassed the U.S. average in 1974. From November 1975 to November 1976 the Canadian average rose by 13.3 per cent compared with a 9.3 percent increase in the U.S. average.

### A medal for Mr. Strong



Maurice F. Strong, Chairman of the Board of Petro-Canada, was the first recipient recently, of the Henri Pittier medal in recognition of his extraordinary service as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program. Mr. Strong was also Secretary-General of the UN Conference on the Human Environment and President of the Canadian International Development Agency. The Henri Pittier medal was created by the Venezuelan Congress on the initiative of President Perez in commemoration of the outstanding conservation specialist Henri Pittier.

### Towards prevention of coronary heart disease in high-risk patients

The roles of smoking, lack of exercise and high-cholesterol diet in the precipitation of heart disease are now well-known, as is that of heredity. Recently clinicians dealing with heart attack patients have been paying increasing attention to factors which are not physical in origin, such as stress placed on the patient by job responsibilities or problems at home. And many have begun to discover that the source of stress is often the patient. Without knowing it, some people are victims of their own personalities; if they remain unaware of the dangers, they can help to bring about their own heart attacks.

Coronary heart disease (CHD) affects the coronary arteries leading to the heart (so called because they are in a crown-like formation around the top of the heart.) These arteries can thicken from any of the causes mentioned above, and thus leave an increasingly narrow passage for the blood to pass through to reach the heart. An insufficient blood supply can cause destruction of the heart tissue; this is called myocardial infarction, or heart attack.

Stress, anxiety and depression can all affect the body's metabolism, which in turn has a direct effect on heart function. Stress, for instance, especially stress related to fighting dead-

lines, can decrease blood-clotting time, making the development of a blood clot, or thrombosis, more likely. If a coronary artery is already thickened, a thrombosis is all that is needed to interrupt the flow of blood to the heart and cause an attack. Stress can also cause an increase in blood lipids (or fats) such as cholesterol. These lipids contribute to CHD by causing arteriosclerosis, a condition characterized by thickening and eventual hardening of the arteries.

According to Dr. Maurice Dongier, chairman of McGill University's Department of Psychiatry, and director of the Allan Memorial Institute, blood cholesterol increases in tax accountants during March and April when they are preparing income tax forms.

Dr. Dongier has studied the results of the work of many other researchers looking for a distinct series of personality traits common to cardiac patients, and has conducted clinical interviews of his own with 68 patients. While there is no unique personality profile specific to CHD patients, he has found convincing evidence that some defence mechanisms, character traits and neurotic reaction patterns are prevalent in these patients.

#### Important traits

The main traits he considers to be important are: (a) a tendency to brood

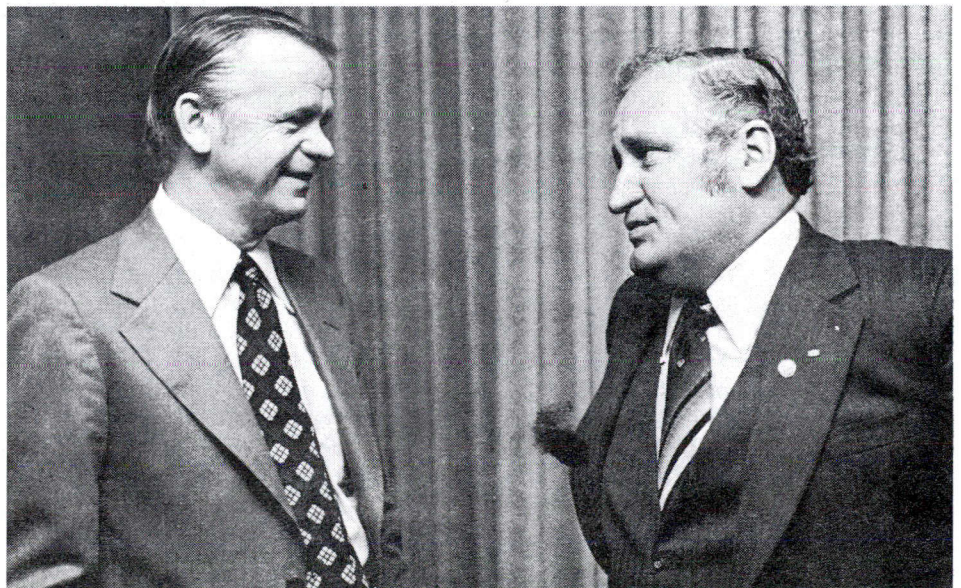
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### U.S./Canada talk agriculture

Canada's Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan and United States Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland met in Ottawa for the first time on May 20 for a series of discussions. The subjects included a review of recent developments in Canada/U.S. agriculture-producer concerns regarding tariff disparities, the International Wheat Agreement, cooperation in agricultural research and the importance to agriculture of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva.

Mr. Bergland chose Ottawa as his first official visit outside the U.S.A. since his appointment as Secretary of Agriculture because of the shared importance the agriculture industry holds in both countries domestically and in international trade.

"I've appreciated the opportunity to



Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan (right) and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland discuss developments at their recent meeting in Ottawa.

discuss our mutual problems with Mr. Whelan and open new lines of communications," he said. "Through greater co-operation and consultation, I am convinced we can discover mutually beneficial solutions."

Agriculture Minister Whelan agreed. "As farmers and as government officials, we can recognize unlimited opportunities for producers on both sides of the border as we continue to work closely together," he said.

"I am extremely pleased with the progress we've made today," he continued. "I am firmly convinced that it is only through continued co-operation and dialogue that Canada and the U.S.A. will be able to realize their agricultural potential. I look forward to working closely with Mr. Bergland and his Department."

(Continued from P. 3)

anxiously about the future; (b) a tendency to use rationalization to avoid emotional ties; (c) a need for active denigration of others; (d) frequent tension at work related to the above traits and also to perfectionism and a need for mastery of time; and (e) occasional depressive episodes when ego defence mechanisms fail. Dr. Dongier points out that some of these traits are common in the general population as well, so they must be of above-average intensity to mean a person is prone to CHD.

Another important fact that must be kept in mind is that the psyche by itself is never the cause of coronary illness; it merely plays a role along with a number of other precipitating factors.

Dr. Dongier found, in addition, that different types of CHD are often associated with different character traits within the above description. Patients suffering from angina pectoris (chest pain) with little or no observable damage to the heart tissue were more prone to anxiety, hypochondria and lack of emotional control. (However, angina pectoris is not a symptom of anxiety — many people suffer from anxiety without ever having angina pectoris and *vice versa*.) Patients who have myocardial infarction (heart attacks) with little or no pain are those more apt to repress anxiety and emotion, to be hard on themselves and others, and to have an authoritarian personality and a strong urge to compete.

Dongier further subdivides CHD patients into six categories: those with angina pectoris but with no detectable damage to the coronary artery; those with angina pectoris accompanied by damage to the coronary artery; those with angina pectoris preceding myocardial infarction; those with myocardial infarction preceding angina pectoris; those with myocardial infarction which is clinically detectable but without angina pectoris; those who have had "silent infarct" — a heart attack with absolutely no pain, that is not even detected until the damage to the heart is revealed by a routine examination. (This may sound unusual, but it happens quite often.)

It is important that these gradations not be seen as a progression of symptoms in one patient, but as categories into which patients may be loosely divided.

The reason for proposing such gradations, says Dr. Dongier, is to facilitate patient management. Since the different types of CHD patients exhibit different personality traits and symptoms, their treatment will vary, as will the factors likely to precipitate further illness.

#### Depression cause

For instance, to the typical patient prone to myocardial infarction preceding, or in the absence of, pain — the rigid personality, obsessed with dead-

lines — depression may contribute to further attacks and should be avoided. Dr. Dongier explains, "It has been shown that the highest proportion of heart attacks in these patients occurred in widowers during the six months following bereavement. It's two to three times higher after the death of a spouse. Of course, you can't prevent that. But you can prevent other causes of depression."

Accordingly, therapists working with such patients will be on the lookout for dangerous trends in the patient's job, family or lifestyle which could bring on bouts of depression.

Analogously, other types of psychotherapy, including relaxation techniques or yoga, may be in order for patients towards the other end of the scale, who are prone to anxiety and lack of emotional control.

#### Tranquilizer warning

For all CHD patients, Dr. Dongier cautions against the over-use of tranquilizers. These can prevent the function of anxiety as a useful signal, contribute to an increase in the pain threshold and reduce the occurrence of angina pectoris without decreasing the risk of the much more dangerous myocardial infarction. He believes that, if his sub-categories of CHD are kept in mind, they may make psychological evaluations of patients more useful in the prediction — and thus prevention — of further coronary illness.

#### Winnipeg has lowest food costs west of Ottawa

A "nutritious diet" costs less each week in Winnipeg, Manitoba, than in any city west of the Ottawa-Hull region, according to the latest report of the Anti-Inflation Board.

As well, it rose to fifth spot from seventh between April 1976 and April 1977, the same 12-city report shows.

The AIB report, using the example of a four-person family, states that the average weekly cost of a nutritious diet in Winnipeg in April was \$47.02, compared to that of Quebec City, the lowest at \$45.13, and St. John's, Newfoundland, the highest of the 12 cities, at \$52.10.

The three other cities lower than Winnipeg, based on the April 15, 1977, survey, are Montreal (\$46.29), Halifax, Nova Scotia (\$46.31) and Ottawa-Hull (\$46.92).

Cities higher than fifth-place Winnipeg are Toronto (\$47.09), Charlottetown, (\$48.55), Edmonton, Alberta (\$48.66); Regina, Saskatchewan (\$49.31); Saint John, New Brunswick (\$49.65), Vancouver (\$50.35) and St. John's.

Weighted average for the 12 cities was \$47.32, up almost \$5 from that of the previous April; the Winnipeg average only increased by \$3.42. Two communities excluded from the weighted average, because of special costs, were Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (\$63.46); and Whitehorse, Yukon Territory (\$60.74).

In April 1976, both Toronto and Regina ranked ahead of Winnipeg. In the past year Regina showed the largest jump of any city (from \$42.80 in 1976 to \$49.31).

# News of the arts

## Contemporary art on tour

A major exhibition of paintings, sponsored by the Department of External Affairs, will begin a tour abroad at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris on June 16.

CONTEMPORARY CANADIAN PAINTERS is a collection of 21 works drawn from the Art Bank of the Canada Council by seven leading Canadian artists – Claude Breeze, Paterson Ewan, Charles Gagnon, Gershon Iskowitz, Ron Martin, John Meredith and Guido Molinari. The exhibition, which will remain in Paris until August 20, will then be shipped to New Zealand, where, for four months, it will be displayed in Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton and Auckland.

In February 1978, CANADIAN CONTEMPORARY PAINTERS will be seen in Australia until mid-November. The galleries in Australia hosting the Canadian exhibition are Newcastle, Brisbane, Victoria, Sydney, Hobart, Canberra and Darwin.

In December 1978, the paintings will return to Europe for exhibition throughout 1979 and part of 1980.

This will be the first extensive international tour of works from the Art Bank. The Art Bank, established in 1972, is administered by the Visual Arts Section of the Canada Council, the federal agency responsible for support and promotion of the arts and social sciences. Its purpose is to assist Canadian artists through purchase of their works, which are then loaned for display in public buildings across the country.

The selection for this exhibition was made jointly by the curators of the Art Bank and visual arts specialists from the Department of External Affairs, Cultural Affairs Division. "We looked for artists whose work shows a vital, consistent, continuous and personal approach to the practice of painting," writes Geoffrey James, head of the Visual Arts Section of the Canada Council, in the introduction to the catalogue.

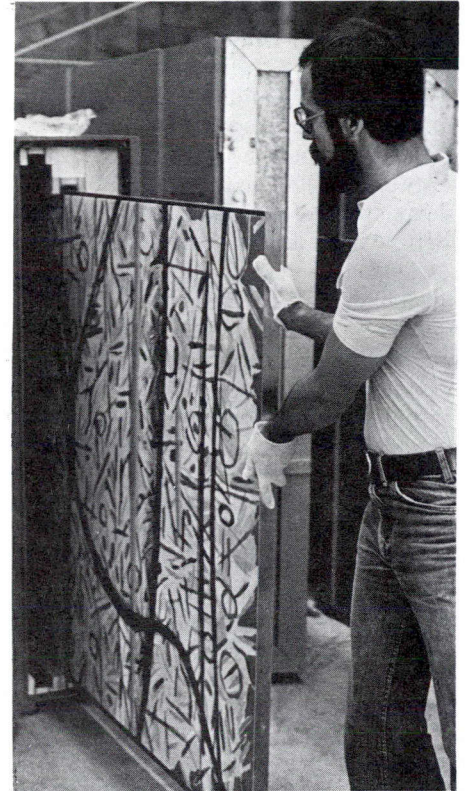
### Variety of approaches

The paintings illustrate a variety of artistic approaches over the past six years. They are largely non-figurative, except for the works of Claude Breeze

and Paterson Ewan, which draw inspiration from the landscape and climate of Canada. Iskowitz is concerned with light, colour and space in almost effervescent compositions. Gagnon and Martin are looking at the substance of paint itself; Gagnon works in shades of whites and greys; and Martin's are swirls of simple colours – blue or green or black. John Meredith's works are "action paintings" with movement and colour sprawled across large panels. The pieces by Molinari, one of the innovators of abstract painting in Canada, are structured studies juxtaposing colours in formal lines.

Size was also a factor in the planning of the show. Some works originally chosen had to be replaced with smaller ones to fit into an aircraft. As it is, while CANADIAN CONTEMPORARY PAINTERS is among the most important art projects undertaken by the Department over the last few years, it is physically the largest exhibition ever assembled for a foreign tour.

Before the shipping crates were closed, the paintings were coated with a fungicide-insecticide spray to prevent any mildew damage during their travels.



A painting by Claude Breeze, one of 21 works in the exhibition CANADIAN CONTEMPORARY PAINTERS, is crated, ready for shipment abroad.

## Bilingual technical dictionary

The second edition of the English-French dictionary, *Dictionnaire Technique Général*, by J. Gérald Belle-Isle, a Bell Canada employee, was published last month by La Librairie Beauchemin of Montreal.

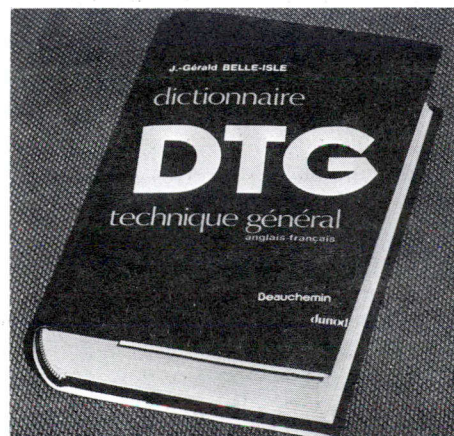
The new edition, which contains a scientific and technical orientation vocabulary as well as the main dictionary, includes more than 49,000

English words drawn from some 30 modern industrial and commercial technologies and more than 126,000 French equivalents. The many shades of meaning given for each English term show the uses peculiar to each field of technology. Examples of current usage are provided wherever it is necessary to convey the exact meaning.

"DTG" is described as the most complete and up-to-date work of its kind, "an invaluable working tool which can save hours of research."

The author, a director of the Canadian Technology Society, was awarded a prize in 1965 in the Quebec literary and scientific competition. The preface of the book was written by Pierre Agron, secretary-general of the Comité d'étude des termes techniques français. The book is sponsored by the Engineering Institute of Canada and by the Société des Ingénieurs civils de France (Canadian Section).

Professor David Hayne of the University of Toronto says of the new edition that it "will be of great assistance to translators of technical material...."



### Air agreement with Finland

Canada and Finland have concluded an air transport agreement, which was formally signed in Ottawa by Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson and Finnish Ambassador Niilo Juhani Pusa on May 16.

The routes specified in the agreement are on a third- and fourth-freedom basis with intransit rights at a point in Europe between the two countries and intransit rights at Montreal and Helsinki to a point beyond. Finland, which has chosen New York, will serve Montreal on its New York run twice a week. In exchange, Air Canada would have similar rights through Europe to Helsinki and to a point beyond Helsinki to be named by Canada.

The air agreement, which is for four years, is renewable. During the initial period the service will be operated by Finnair alone. Air Canada and Finnair have, for their part, concluded a commercial agreement.

### Government/labour pioneer pact

Federal Labour Minister John Munro and Canadian Labour Congress President Joe Morris met recently to sign an agreement — the first of its kind — providing support for a major program of labour education.

The agreement will enable the CLC to institute a wide range of training and development programs for its 2.3 million membership through a \$2-million annual contribution that is intended to run for five years. "The agreement reflects our recognition of the national importance of sound industrial relations — and of the unique contributions of the Canadian union membership to the economic and social well-being of the country," Mr. Munro says. "It also

reflects a major CLC initiative."

The program is designed to encourage a better-informed union membership and a smoother collective-bargaining process, and to help labour participate fully in social and economic affairs.

The program of labour studies provided for in the agreement, which will be administered by the CLC, will include a National Labour Studies Centre and five regional centres.

The Labour Minister also announced a labour-education program for the support of unions not affiliated with the

Congress and for grants to individual union members and educational institutions. This part of the program, which will cost an estimated \$600,000 during the first year, will be administered by a national advisory council on labour education.

"Substantial public funds are already available for the development of leadership in business and industry *via* post-secondary institutions across the country. Nothing comparable presently exists for the union side," says Mr. Munro.

### News briefs

- Prime Minister Trudeau arrived in London early on June 6 to take part in the Commonwealth heads of government meeting and in the jubilee celebrations of Queen Elizabeth. With Mr. Trudeau was former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. Governor-General and Mrs. Léger arrived the same day, accompanied by former Governor-General Roland Michener and Mrs. Michener.
- Liberals swept five of six seats in federal by-elections on May 24. A 25-year Conservative hold on Malpeque, a Prince Edward Island riding, was broken by Liberal Donald Wood, 42. Only Social Credit candidate Gilles Caouette, 37, withstood the Liberal sweep. He won Temiscamingue, Quebec, formerly held by his father, the late Réal Caouette. Dennis Dawson, 27, won Louis-Hebert and Quebec Mayor Gilles Lamontagne, 58, won Langelier. Both are Liberals and the seats were formerly held by their party. Liberal Raymond Savard overcame a strong NDP challenge from Phil Edmonston in Verdun, as did Liberal Roland Comtois, 48, former MP for Terrebonne, against Conservative Roger Delorme.
- Registrations of new cars in Canada were up 34 per cent in the first three months of this year from those of the comparable period last year, according to figures compiled by R. L. Polk and Co. Ltd. of Toronto. Total new car registrations were 199,440, compared with 148,833 a year earlier.
- Northern Telecom Ltd. has received a \$170-million contract from the Turkish Government for equipment manufactured in Canada. Under the five-year contract, it will supply the Turkish Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration

with telecommunications equipment and services. Its Turkish subsidiary, Northern Electric Telekomunikasyon AS, expects to supply an additional \$250 million in equipment and services.

- Manitoba became the first jurisdiction outside Hong Kong to sell a bond issue in that Crown colony when it floated an issue May 25 amounting to 150 million Hong Kong dollars — the equivalent of \$33 million in Canadian funds. Manitoba Finance Minister Saul Miller said the five-year bonds, dated June 15, 1977, carried a 6 7/8 percent interest coupon and were sold at 99.50. This gives an effective yield to the investor of 6.88 per cent, based on an annual interest coupon, rather than semi-annually, as is the custom in North America.

- Constitutional guarantees are needed to make Quebecers feel secure in Confederation, newspaper publisher Claude Ryan told the Atlantic Provinces Chamber of Commerce on June 5. He said such things as guarantees of access to federal services and to justice in French or English were necessary, along with guarantees of minority educational rights.

- The Wall Street bond-rating house of Standard and Poor's Corp. has announced it will maintain its double A rating on Quebec bonds and that the risk to bond holders because of the independence issue had been greatly exaggerated. It is the second major New York rating group to retain the high credit rating, the other being Moody's Investors Service Inc.

- Part-time students at Hamilton's McMaster University will study on an equal basis with full-time students and be taught by regular McMaster faculty members if a wide-ranging report is adopted by the University.

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