



Bulletin

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The following statement concerning the International Red Cross Conference held in Istanbul from September 6 to 13 was issued by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, on October 22:

...Three decisions of far-reaching importance were made. The first was embodied in a Declaration of Principles on International Humanitarian Relief to Civilian Populations in Disaster Situations. This declaration was drafted by Canada and Norway, after consultation with the Canadian and Norwegian Red Cross, and was adopted without any opposing votes. The Declaration affirms that human suffering in all of its manifestations is of deep concern to the conscience of mankind; recognizes that further steps must be taken by the international community to ensure prompt and effective relief action to civilian populations in both natural and other disaster situations; and goes on to lay down six important principles, namely:

(1) The fundamental concern of mankind is the protection and welfare of the individual and the safeguarding of basic human rights.

(2) Relief by impartial international humanitarian organizations for civilian populations in both natural and other disaster situations should be treated as humanitarian and non-political.

(3) Effective co-ordination of action by impartial international humanitarian organizations is essential.

(4) Disaster relief should be provided without discrimination and should in no circumstances be regarded as an unfriendly act.

(5) All states are requested to facilitate the admission, transit and distribution of relief supplies

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by such organization for the benefit and welfare of civilian populations.

(6) All other authorities should also facilitate disaster relief activities.

This resolution is not merely a collection of pious platitudes. Passed as it was by a conference grouping both the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, the organizations best qualified to claim the title of impartial international humanitarian organizations, and at the same time those with the greatest experience in providing relief to both natural and armed conflict disaster situations, the Declaration represents not merely a cry from the conscience of mankind but a demand for concrete action.

The other two related decisions adopted at the Conference go a step further towards concrete action by states to incur actual legal, in addition to moral, obligations to facilitate the provisions of disaster relief.

SWISS-CANADIAN INITIATIVE

One of these resolutions, sponsored by Switzerland, actively supported by Canada and drafted together by the two countries, was adopted unanimously. It is entitled "The Reaffirmation and Development of the Laws and Customs Applicable in Armed Conflicts".

This resolution refers to the tragic fact of life that armed conflicts and other forms of violence continuously imperil peace and the values of humanity; it underlines the necessity and urgency of reaffirming and developing humanitarian rules of international law applicable in armed conflicts of all kinds, in order to strengthen the effective protection of the fundamental rights of human beings in keeping with the Geneva Red Cross Conventions of 1949. It goes on to request the International Committee of the Red Cross to pursue actively efforts towards four objectives, namely:

(a) Proposing as soon as possible concrete rules which would supplement the existing humanitarian law;

(b) inviting governmental, Red Cross and other experts representing the principal legal and social systems in the world to meet for consultations with the International Committee of the Red Cross on these proposals;

(c) submitting these proposals to governments for their comments;

(d) if it is deemed desirable, recommending to the appropriate authorities to consider the convening of diplomatic conferences of states parties to the Geneva Convention, as well as other interested states, in order to elaborate international legal instruments incorporating these proposals.

Canada had already, prior to the Istanbul Conference, developed, in consultation with the Canadian Red Cross Society, certain proposals aimed precisely at placing upon states the legal obligation to apply humanitarian standards to all disaster situations, whether natural in origin or arising out of conflicts, whether international or internal. In the Canadian view, it is not enough to ask states to facilitate the provision of disaster relief. The time has come to make such action mandatory, in order, in the language of the resolution, to strengthen the effective protection of the fundamental rights of human beings.

NON-INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT

The third resolution, intended primarily to follow up the last-mentioned resolution, also co-sponsored by Canada, relates specifically to non-international armed conflicts. This resolution recalls the unfortunate fact that, since the conclusion of the Geneva Conventions in 1949, non-international armed conflicts have been on the increase and have caused much suffering. The resolution makes specific reference to one of the key provisions contained in each of the four Geneva Red Cross Conventions, namely Article 3, which lays down minimal standards applicable to all conflict situations, but goes on to point out that experience has shown that the provision in question is not adequate, and that the article in question requires to be made more specific and to be supplemented. In the operative part of the resolution, the International Committee of the Red Cross, with the co-operation of governmental experts, is requested to devote special attention to this

problem within the framework of the general studies, already referred to, towards the development of humanitarian law. The resolution was passed with an overwhelming majority of 95 to four, with 12 abstentions.

All Canadians are aware of the reasons why the UN is not necessarily the only forum for all types of activity aimed at contributing to peaceful relations and relief of human suffering. The Canadian Government has long recognized the tremendous service of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the national Red Cross societies in these vital areas of human concern. For this reason, the Canadian Government has lent its full support to efforts by the Red Cross to go further than has heretofore been possible in building a system of legal, as well as moral, standards of humanitarian behavior. The Government is extremely gratified at the success achieved at the Istanbul Red Cross Conference, and pledges to do its utmost in following up the decisions reached last week with continued support and concrete action.

CANADA UPS UN DEVELOPMENT AID

On October 9, at the 1970 Pledging Conference of the United Nations Development Program, the Canadian Representative, Mr. B. Rankin, announced "subject to approval of the Canadian Parliament, a 20 percent increase in Canada's pledge to the United Nations Development Program for 1970". This amount, Mr. Rankin said, would be "the equivalent of \$16.2 million (Canadian)", and would bring "to over \$100 million the total amount pledged to the United Nations Development Program and its predecessor programs by Canada".

NEW MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Two Parliamentary Secretaries – Herb Gray and Robert D.G. Stanbury – have been appointed Ministers without Portfolio, effective October 20. The former will be associated in his work with Finance Minister E.J. Benson, and the latter will work with Secretary of State Gérard Pelletier.

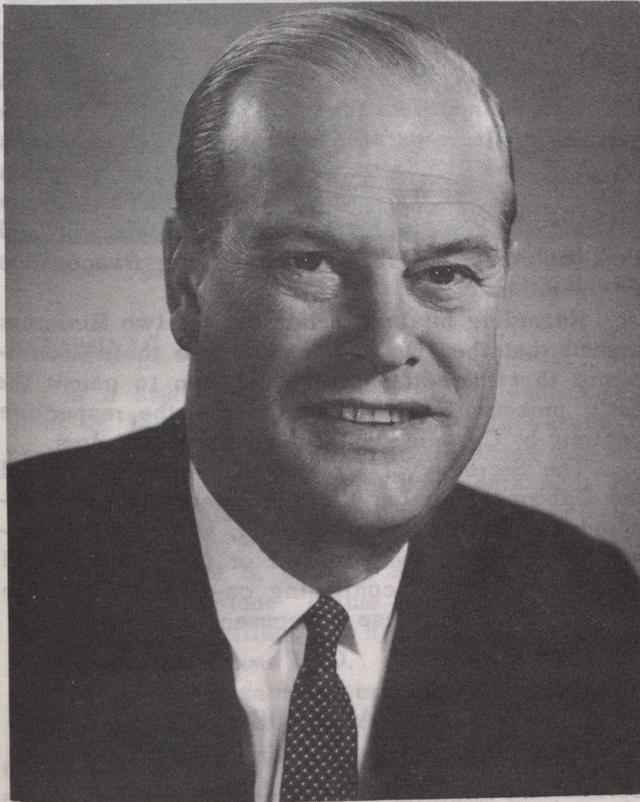
Mr. Gray will assume responsibility for policies concerning financial institutions and for related legislation, which is expected to be quite extensive in the coming session. The Minister of Finance has also asked him to take over day-to-day responsibility for tariff policy and low-cost import policy and student loans, and other guaranteed loan programs.

Mr. Stanbury will assume particular responsibility for the work of the Secretary of State Department in the area of citizenship. This involves questions of naturalization and the Citizenship Courts, and also the Department's developing program to encourage and assist various groups of residents, including ethnic groups, to play a more active part in the life of Canada.

DEATH OF ROBERT WINTERS

A former Minister of Trade and Commerce, Robert H. Winters, died suddenly of a heart attack on October 10 at the age of 59. Mr. Winters, who closely contested the leadership of the Liberal Party last year, died in Monterey, California, where he was attending business meetings as Chairman of Brascan Ltd. (formerly the Brazilian Light and Power Co. Ltd.), one of Canada's largest foreign investment companies.

A memorial service attended by the Prime Minister and former colleagues was held in Toronto on October 14. The funeral was held on October 16 in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Mr. Winters' birthplace.



The Honorable Robert H. Winters

Robert Winters entered politics in 1945 and retained his seat in the House of Commons until the Liberal Party was defeated in 1957. He served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of National Revenue (1947) and as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Public Works (1953). During a ten-year absence from politics he held executive positions in 20 major companies.

Mr. Winters re-entered political life in 1965 under former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson. As Minister of Trade and Commerce he sent trade missions to many countries; he showed special interest in trade with Latin America.

Mr. Winters is survived by his wife and a son and daughter.

CANADIAN ENVOY TO VATICAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, recently announced the appointment of Dr. John Everett Robbins as first Canadian Ambassador to the Vatican. Dr. Robbins is the present Editor-in-Chief of the *Encyclopedia Canadiana* and former President of Brandon University.

Monsignor Emanuele Clarizio, Apostolic Delegate in Ottawa, will become the first Papal Pro-Nuncio in Canada, and as such will rank as an Ambassador and will be a member of the Diplomatic Corps.

In the words of the official announcement:

"The Government of Canada and the Vatican are confident that this step will contribute to their mutual understanding and to exchanges of views between them on international matters of common concern."

BABY SEALS REPRIEVED

Canada will ban the hunting of "whitecoats" (baby harp seals) in 1970, Fisheries and Forestry Minister Jack Davis announced in Ottawa recently.

"Negotiations, meanwhile, are continuing with the Norwegians with a view to having them adopt a similar ruling which would be effective not only in the Gulf of St. Lawrence but also on the Labrador Front", Mr. Davis stated. Norway is the only other country that has been active in the harp-seal fishery in the Northwest Atlantic in recent years.

The new policy means that only "beaters" — animals up to 80 pounds in weight that have advanced well beyond the "whitecoat" stage — will be slaughtered. The term implies that the young seals have been abandoned by their mothers, and, being by now able to swim, are about to "beat" their way north to the Arctic waters. Because "beaters" are far more mobile than baby seals, rifles will have to be used instead of clubs in hunting them.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS

The Minister added that there would be a later opening date for the hunt, and that the use of all types of aircraft, including helicopters, would be prohibited, in order to make the hunt "more manageable from the point of view of supervision by our departmental officials".

Under these circumstances, the commercial operations will be confined almost entirely to ships. However landsmen walking out from shore will also have an opportunity to take "beaters" during the open hunting season.

Canadians whose livelihood has been largely dependent on the seal fishery will still be protected. Newfoundland fishermen are mainly employed on the sealing vessels. But landsmen from Quebec and the Maritime Provinces should also gain financially, as the value of the skins of "beaters", under current market conditions, is greater than that of the pelts

of the smaller "whitecoats".

Mr. Davis ended his statement as follows:

"The new regulations not only do away with those characteristics of the seal hunt which have been most offensive to people in many parts of the world but also ensure that those who have been dependent on this fishery can still earn a livelihood by exploiting this unique resource. It is my hope, of course, that the Norwegians will co-operate with us in enforcing these new rules. Once they are applied in international waters off the Labrador Coast, the killing of baby 'whitecoats' will have been eliminated entirely."

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

The federal Department of Manpower and Immigration will help the Toronto Rotary Club to promote its experimental youth employment service, which helps find suitable jobs for young people referred to Rotary by social agencies. The project, which began in February, involves direct participation by business and community leaders in the development of job opportunities.

The federal department will co-operate with the Rotary Club in the planning and counselling phases of the project and in evaluating its results. Besides assigning manpower counsellors to work with the service, the department will make available a research group for consultation in the design of an assessment of the undertaking. A senior officer from the department will be a member of the project governing board.

Business executives, professional consultants, community agencies and employers are taking part in the experiment.

Of the first 85 youths interviewed 27 were placed in employment, eight were assisted in obtaining jobs and five were awaiting further assessment and interview. Forty-five were not considered suitable for placement.

A major effort is made to find jobs offering training possibilities. A number of youths have been placed where they will receive on-the-job training in basic office procedures, and, in some cases, in the operation of office machines. Others are in industrial production, clerical and shipping jobs.

Senior executives of large organizations play an active role in helping to place youth referred to the program by social agencies. Supervision in a specific job is carefully matched to the special problem of the youth, who may lack experience, education, initiative, or who lives in an unstable family situation.

Manpower Minister Allan J. MacEachen said that the knowledge and experience gained in this project would be helpful in developing future programs.

"There is a strong possibility that if the Toronto experiment is a success it could be the forerunner of similar projects in other Canadian centers," he said.

VISIT OF GABONESE FOREIGN MINISTER

At the invitation of Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Gabonese Republic, Mr. Jean Rémy Ayouné, arrived in Ottawa on October 6 for a brief visit.

Mr. Ayouné, who was accompanied by Mr. Léonard Antoine Badinga, Gabonese Ambassador designate to Canada, and Mr. Paul Moukambi, Deputy Secretary-General in the Office of His Excellency the President of Gabon, met with Mr. Sharp the next afternoon. During the day, the Gabonese Minister also met with officials of the Department of External Affairs and visited the Canadian International Development Agency.

Discussions, conducted in a cordial atmosphere, dealt notably with subjects of international and African interest, including the current situation in Nigeria. In addition, the Gabonese and Canadian Ministers discussed the development of relations between the two countries and aid co-operation arrangements, and had a useful exchange of views on *la francophonie*. In this connection they underlined the importance of rapidly-intensifying *francophone* co-operation.

Regarding bilateral relations, the two Ministers agreed that they would recommend to their Governments that immediate steps be taken to permit the early presentation of credentials in the respective capitals by Canadian and Gabonese ambassadors.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Gabonese Foreign Minister agreed that all Canadian aid undertakings in Gabon, whether their primary sponsorship was federal or provincial, would be the subject of continuing co-ordination at the Canadian and Gabonese Governments.

AIR PACT WITH ISRAEL MOTTED

Delegations from Israel and Canada met in Ottawa last month to discuss proposals relating to a bilateral air transport agreement to govern commercial scheduled air-services between Canada and Israel.

The discussions took place in a friendly and co-operative atmosphere, and there was a useful exchange of views on the form that such an agreement might take. Whereas agreement in principle was reached on several matters, the heads of the two delegations agreed to give further thought to the proposals put forward by each side. It was agreed that further discussions would take place at the earliest possible date that would prove mutually satisfactory to the two governments.

The Israeli delegation was headed by Mr. Naphtali Ben-Yehuda, Director of Civil Aviation for Israel, while the head of the Canadian delegation was Mr. Gerald Morisset, Chairman of the International Transport Policy Committee of the Canadian Transport Commission.



Escuminac memorial statue, New Brunswick. Bronze plaques bear names of 35 fishermen who lost their lives and 16 names of survivors singled out for acts of bravery in the disaster.

ESCUMINAC REMEMBERS

In a small fishing village at the easternmost point of the New Brunswick coast, thousands of people paid tribute recently to 35 fishermen who lost their lives in a sudden storm ten years ago. The ceremony took place at Escuminac, at the entrance of Miramichi Bay, with the unveiling by Lieutenant-Governor Wallace S. Bird of New Brunswick of a seven-foot limestone statue commemorating the fishermen of that village who had drowned during that fatal night in mid-June 1959.

The Atlantic salmon were running through the Gulf of St. Lawrence that month, heading for such spawning rivers as the Miramichi and Restigouche. To the commercial salmon fishermen of Escuminac it was the best salmon year in a decade, and on the morning of June 19 the village fleet put to sea. Most of the boats measured from 40 to 50 feet in length. Although the sky that evening appeared a little threatening, the fishing was so good most of the fishermen decided to spend the night on the fishing grounds. Suddenly, late in the evening, after the crews had set their drift nets, the wind came up in gusts that soon turned into a violent gale. Before dawn a savage storm had torn fishing vessels from their nets, ripped off sails and rigging and crushed or capsized 22 boats in giant waves.

With the coming of daylight, the terrible toll became known - 35 men lost, leaving 26 widows and 83 children.

The Escuminac sculptural group, the creation of Claude Roussel, director of visual arts at the University of Moncton, shows the stylized forms of three fishermen, shoulder to shoulder, wearing sou'westers.

AID TO GUYANA

Canada will help support a project to upgrade 78 miles of coastal highways west of Georgetown, Guyana. The Canadian International Development Agency has announced a \$300,000-grant for an engineering and economic feasibility study of the proposed improvements.

The grant will also contain an allocation to cover final engineering designs should the project's feasibility be confirmed.

The new highways will strengthen ties with the western region and link its communities more efficiently with Guyana's major population center.

NEW PARK FOR NEW BRUNSWICK

An agreement providing for the establishment of a new national park on New Brunswick's east coast was signed recently by Mr. Jean Chrétien, Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister, and New Brunswick's Premier Louis J. Robichaud. Kouchibouguac Park, named after the bay on Northumberland Strait on which it is situated, has an area of about 90 square miles in a region located some 55 miles north of the city of Moncton.

It is estimated that the Federal Government will spend about \$3.2 million on capital development by 1975, and that the park's staff will by then consist of 14 full-time and 30 seasonal employees. Development of the park will also provide employment for contractors and their staffs, and will help stimulate the growth of the tourist industry and the general economy of the region.

Kouchibouguac will be New Brunswick's second national park and the sixth in the Atlantic Provinces. There are at present 19 national parks in Canada from Terra Nova in Newfoundland to Mount Revelstoke in British Columbia.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The consumer price index for Canada (1961=100) rose by 0.4 per cent to 126.9 in August from 126.4 in July. At its August 1969 level, it stood 5.1 percent higher than the figure recorded 12 months earlier. Most of the increase in the latest month was attributable to a 1.4 percent upward movement in the food index. All other major components registered only fractional advances except the health-and-personal-care index, which was unchanged, and the transportation index, which declined slightly.

FOOD

The food component advanced by 1.4 per cent to 130.6 in August from 128.8 in July. In the latest month, higher prices were registered for a number of fresh fruits and vegetables, with increases of over 10 per cent recorded for potatoes, onions, carrots and grapefruit. Not all produce prices moved higher; lettuce, celery and cabbage were some items which registered noticeable declines. Among meat items beef prices were 2.6 percent lower to mark the second consecutive month of decline from their June peak. Poultry and fish prices, by contrast, rose by 3.4 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively, while pork was largely unchanged. Some staples such as bread, butter, margarine and sugar declined slightly, but a number of speciality food items including baby food, pasta products, and cake mixes registered noticeable increases. Egg prices rose by some 6 per cent since the preceding month, but the increase was considerably less than normally experienced at this time of year. The August food index stood 5.4 percent above its level of a year earlier.

HOUSING

The housing index increased by 0.2 per cent to 125.4 in August from 125.2 in the preceding month. Rents moved up in most cities across the country, while home-ownership costs also edged up in re-

sponse to increased outlays for dwelling and contents insurance. Among household operation items, fuel oil prices were raised in a number of Ontario cities, but summer sales of furniture, utensils and equipment offset minor price increases in other home furnishing items. The August housing index stood 5.5 percent above its level of 12 months ago.

OTHER INDEXES

The clothing index moved up by 0.2 per cent to 125.0 in August from 124.8 in July. Price levels for men's, women's and children's wear were slightly higher since the preceding month, while piece goods advanced by 1.0 per cent, partially reflecting a return to regular prices following summer sales. The clothing index stood 3.6 percent above its level of a year earlier.

The transportation index declined by 0.2 per cent to 120.5 in August from 120.7 a month earlier. New automobile prices decreased by 0.5 per cent reflecting the larger discounts negotiated towards the end of the car-model year. Gasoline prices, by contrast, increased in Toronto and several other Ontario centers. Among intercity travel prices, train fares were seasonally lower. The August transportation index was 4.7 percent above its level of 12 months ago.

The health-and-personal-care index remained unchanged at its July level of 134.2. Pharmaceutical prices edged up by 0.1 per cent, as higher prices for patent medicines outweighed minor declines for prescription drugs. Toiletary prices also registered mixed movements, but edged up on the whole. The health-and-personal-care index was 4.7 percent above its level of a year ago.

The recreation-and-reading index moved up by 0.2 per cent to 127.6 in August from 127.4 in July largely on the strength of a 0.7 percent increase in cinema admissions, and on a 0.8 percent rise in camera film and developing charges. The recreation-and-reading index stood 6.4 percent above its level of 12 months ago.

The tobacco-and-alcohol index edged up by 0.1 per cent to 126.4 in August from 126.3 in July. Sporadic price increases were registered across the country for both cigarettes and pipe tobacco. The tobacco-and-alcohol index was 4.2 percent higher than that of a year earlier.