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SERIE DE RENCONTRES SEMESTRIELLES CANADA/CEE

La quinzième ronde de consultations semestrielles à haut niveau entre le Canada et la Communauté européenne a eu lieu à Ottawa les 20 et 21 novembre dernier. A cette occasion, les membres des délégations communautaire et canadienne ont procédé à un échange de vues sur les perspectives économiques internationales ainsi que sur certains autres thèmes multilatéraux dont le Dialogue Nord/Sud, la situation énergétique mondiale et les grands problèmes commerciaux auxquels sont confrontés les pays industrialisés. Ils ont en outre abordé diverses questions d'ordre bilatéral, dont la négociation d'accords à long terme dans les domaines de la pêche et des sauvegardes nucléaires ainsi que le développement des politiques dans les secteurs de l'énergie, de l'agriculture et de l'investissement.

Parallèlement aux consultations à haut niveau, se tenaient à Ottawa les réunions semestrielles des deux Sous-comités de

coopération créés en 1976 sous l'Accord-cadre de Coopération commerciale et économique entre le Canada et la Communauté européenne.

Dans un premier temps, le Sous-comité général a constaté les progrès accomplis au cours des derniers mois dans les domaines de l'environnement et des sciences et de la technologie, à la suite notamment de la signature d'un accord sur la gestion des déchets radio-actifs. Le Sous-comité de coopération industrielle a de son côté passé en revue les activités particulièrement nombreuses des différents groupes de travail, surtout dans les secteurs des produits forestiers, de l'uranium et du matériel nucléaire, de la conservation de l'énergie et des minéraux et métaux. Dans ce dernier domaine, le Sous-comité s'est attardé sur les suites qui devront être données notamment au séminaire conjoint sur la transformation du cuivre et à la mission communautaire sur le charbon qui s'est rendue au Canada (voir BULLETIN CANADA du 15 septembre 1980). On a également procédé à un échange d'informations sur le développement des politiques industrielles de la Communauté et du Canada dans le domaine de la télématique. Par ailleurs, le Sous-comité a examiné la possibilité de mettre sur pied un groupe de travail dans le domaine des transports urbains. C'est précisément dans ce contexte qu'un groupe d'experts de la Communauté a effectué une série de visites dans diverses provinces canadiennes au cours de la dernière semaine de novembre.

EIGHTH ANNUAL CANADA/EC PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE

One of the highlights of Canada-EC relations is the annual exchange between the European and Canadian Parliaments. This year's exchange took place in Strasbourg and Brussels, November 20-24, under the co-chairmanship of Sir John Stewart-Clark of the European Parliament and Senator George Van Roggen of the Canadian Parliament. These visits, which alternate between Europe and Canada, provide an important opportunity for parliamentarians to discuss current bilateral and international issues from their broad political perspective. This year, the parliamentarians were meeting the same week that Canadian and European officials were negotiating a new long term agreement on fisheries. They were thus able to review the issues both in detail and in the broader context of Canada-EC relations. At the end of their debate they called for an early and comprehensive agreement to be reached.

Another topic of particular interest and importance to both sides was the question of investment in Canada and the activity of the Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA). Members of the European Parliament expressed concern that FIRA acted as an obstacle, or at least a discouragement, to potential European investors. The Canadian parliamentarians explained the economic and political context in which FIRA had been created and provided some evidence that FIRA was not impeding European investment in Canada. In fact FIRA's role is to ensure that foreign investment in Canada brings benefits to all parties concerned. The co-chairmen concluded that it is incumbent upon Europeans to examine carefully the real opportunities for investment in Canada, and upon Canadians to explain clearly the role and regulations of FIRA to avoid discouraging potential investors.

The two parliamentary delegations conducted a thorough review

of each other's energy plans and requirements. Members of the European Parliament were particularly interested in Canadian plans for developing and transporting natural gas and coal, and in Canada's oil pricing policies. The Canadian members asked about prospects for a European energy policy, and took note of Greenland's particular environmental and cultural concerns about the transportation of liquid natural gas through the Davis Strait.

The two delegations also discussed a number of political subjects including the Polish situation and the CSCE Review Conference in Madrid, on both of which they had very similar views.

Sir John Stewart-Clark and Senator Van Roggen were very pleased with the results of the working sessions and expressed their determination to continue these useful exchanges with a meeting next year in Canada, possibly in Vancouver.

1981 BUDGET: THE NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

The Canadian federal budget which was brought down on October 28 has at its heart a new National Energy Program reflecting the Government's view that energy development will be the locomotive of significant economic growth in the Canadian economy in the next few years. The new program is designed to promote that development and to ensure growing Canadian control over it.

The National Energy Program is a comprehensive package which includes pricing policies, fiscal measures, expenditure programs, and direct federal government action to achieve goals of energy security, opportunity and fairness for Canada and Canadians. It is intended to restructure Canada's energy system, to balance domestic oil supplies with domestic demand by 1990, to achieve an equitable sharing of energy benefits and burdens among Canadians, to lead to a high level of Canadian ownership and control of the energy sector, to expand the role of the public sector in oil and gas, and to ensure greater industrial benefits from energy development.

The Government is committed to a single price for crude oil in Canada (subject to transportation cost differentials) and gradual price increases to foster the development of new supplies. Under a blended price system Canadian consumers will pay prices that will rise substantially over time but which will not exceed 85 percent of world prices or the average price of oil in the USA, whichever is lower. Current oil export taxes to match world prices will be continued, but proceeds will be shared equally between federal and provincial governments. A new tax will be imposed on natural gas and gas liquids whether for domestic consumption or for export.

The Government intends to purchase several of the large oil and gas companies now operating in Canada and to provide incentives for Canadians to invest in oil. There will also be requirements for majority Canadian participation in the exploitation of the tar sands and the lands under federal jurisdiction, and for the use of Canadian goods and services in exploration, development and production programs on federal lands and in major non-conventional oil projects.

The National Energy Program endorses the premise that energy exports are desirable, but that the export market must not dominate Canadian energy policies or corporate decisions. Exports will be allowed only to the extent that they do not jeopardize Canadian needs and then only if full and fair returns are received for this energy. The National Energy Board will take Canadian ownership into account in considering export applications.

A major program will be undertaken to reduce the use of oil in residential, commercial and industrial sectors in every province to no more than 10 percent of total energy used in those sectors. This will include grants to cover conversion costs, extension of gas pipelines, renewable energy development and new or expanded conservation programs.

A copy of the National Energy Program in English or French can be made available to interested readers who write to the Canadian Mission to the European Communities, 6 rue de Loos, Bruxelles 1000 or to the Canadian Embassy or High Commission in member states.

L'URANIUM CANADIEN

Le Canada se classe parmi les plus importants producteurs d'uranium au monde en termes de production courante, de ressources connues et de capacité de production prévue. Dans le contexte de la crise énergétique et des plans de substituer l'énergie nucléaire aux importations de pétrole dans plusieurs pays industrialisés, la demande d'uranium canadien est appelée à croître substantiellement à long terme. Actuellement, la consommation intérieure n'atteint que 12% de la production canadienne. En 1979 par exemple, le Canada a exporté 2.620 tonnes d'uranium aux pays de la Communauté européenne.

Le Canada occupe le second rang après les Etats-Unis comme producteur. Il a fourni 20% de la production mondiale en 1978, soit 6.800 tonnes, et a maintenu ce niveau en 1979. Il devrait continuer à maintenir cette position au moins jusqu'en 1985. Les efforts d'exploration ont été considérables au cours des dernières années (\$ 90 millions en 1978) et ont permis de projeter une plus grande capacité de production d'uranium.

Au cours des premiers mois de 1974 les producteurs canadiens ont négocié des contrats d'exportation pour au-delà de 34.000 tonnes d'uranium. Devant cette demande de l'étranger, le gouvernement a dû intervenir pour assurer l'approvisionnement du pays. Il a alors décidé d'assurer un approvisionnement de 30 ans pour les réacteurs nationaux en opération et prévus sur dix ans. L'uranium exporté devait également être transformé le plus possible au Canada. En 1977, le ministre de l'Energie, des Mines et des Ressources a aussi informé l'industrie que les nouveaux contrats devraient être renégociés chaque année sur la base du prix du marché ou d'un prix plancher de façon à protéger les investissements des producteurs.

En plus d'être soumise aux objectifs de la politique minérale canadienne, l'exportation d'uranium est assujettie à des considérations de non-prolifération nucléaire et de transformation maximale au Canada. Les exigences d'utilisation pacifique de l'uranium canadien ont été énoncées dès 1958. Par ailleurs, en

1974, le gouvernement a pris la décision d'exporter du matériel nucléaire, de l'équipement et de la technologie aux seuls pays qui s'engagent à ne pas faire exploser d'engins nucléaires. Deux ans plus tard, il a décidé d'autoriser ces exportations seulement vers les pays non dotés d'armes nucléaires qui acceptent de signer le Traité de Non-Prolifération ou de soumettre la totalité de leurs installations nucléaires au régime des garanties.

Après plusieurs années de recherche, le Canada a mis au point un réacteur refroidi à l'eau lourde, de type Candu. Ce réacteur est vraiment la seule filière qui ait connu un certain succès à part le système plus répandu à eau légère. Le Canada offre un approvisionnement de 30 ans en uranium naturel aux pays intéressés par le Candu.

Un traité Canada-Euratom de 1959 régit les relations nucléaires entre le Canada et la Communauté. Il a été mis à jour en janvier 1978 à la suite d'une révision de la politique d'exportation de matériel nucléaire canadien, sauf en ce qui concerne un accord provisoire (annexe C) qui doit faire l'objet de négociations supplémentaires.

URBAN TRANSPORTATION: CANADIAN TECHNOLOGY IN EUROPE

The Urban Transportation Development Corporation (UTDC), of Toronto, has signed an agreement with Metro-Cammell Ltd. of Birmingham (UK). The agreement, initially for five years, will make Metro-Cammell sole UK licensee for the automated, intermediate-capacity, rapid transit system developed by UTDC as well as giving the company access to associated Canadian technology.

The agreement also includes a technical services contract and a marketing link whereby opportunities for international projects can be exploited. In addition to supplying underground trains and buses to London Transport, the world's largest public transportation undertaking, Metro-Cammell has large export contracts. The new link will give UTDC access to major markets for the introduction of specialized Canadian-made components.

UTDC claims a world lead in development of steel-wheel light rail systems and associated technology. It is currently undertaking a research contract for improving steering capabilities on London Transport underground trains. Among other UTDC customers are the transportation authorities of Boston and San Francisco in the United States, and Toronto and Hamilton in Canada.

THE YUKON ECONOMY

Uncertainty is almost a by-word to Yukoners. Over the last 80 years the territory has experienced a series of economic "booms" and "busts", beginning with the Klondike gold rush of 1896-98 and ending with the rush of speculation over the last few years in anticipation of an Alaska Highway gas pipeline. In spite of this tradition of extremes the economic situation seems to be settling into a pattern of steady if modest growth. The Yukon is a large territory in north-western Canada which comes directly under the jurisdiction of the Government and Parliament of Canada, but it enjoys a growing degree of self-

government and has applied for provincial status. The territory covers 532,000 square kms and in 1977 had a population of 21,000.

Gold is once again important as a result of high world prices, and millions of dollars worth of heavy equipment and hundreds of men are working in the Dawson area, some scouring old workings, others trying new locations. Mining employment rose by 14% over the last year, and it is estimated that exploration spending will reach a new record of more than \$ 20 million (Canadian) in 1980, largely because of high gold and silver prices. However, the mining regulations have not changed since Klondike days and the Yukon and federal governments are increasingly concerned at the damage which may be done to the environment by these large-scale operations.

According to the Yukon Government business activity has been expanding at a slow but steady pace. By June 1980 there were 1,110 companies registered in the territory, an increase of 8.5% over 1979. Unemployment is still high, at 8.8% in June which is the peak employment season, but the gradual recovery of the construction industry from the recent gas pipeline "boom/bust" promises better times for the labour force.

A committee of citizens, business representatives and federal and territorial officials is currently working on several development projects with a view to making Whitehorse a major tourist attraction. Of the 300,000 visitors to the Yukon in 1978 about 80% were Americans who were merely travelling through to Alaska. The committee hopes to turn Whitehorse into a destination for tourists who would stay longer and spend more.

EN BREF

AN AGREEMENT ON RADIO-ACTIVE WASTE

On November 3, 1980 the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) signed a cooperative agreement in the field of radio-active waste management. Envisaged are exchanges of technical information, the organization of joint scientific meetings and exchanges of scientists between research laboratories. The agreement was signed in Brussels by J. Donnelly, President of AECL and, on behalf of Euratom, by Commissioner E. Davignon. In brief remarks during the ceremony, Mr. Davignon emphasized the importance of the agreement in the development of Canada-EC relations under the 1976 Framework Agreement. Mr. Donnelly responded that a coordinated research effort had not only bilateral political significance, but would also enable Canada and the Community to tackle their associated scientific programs more efficiently, while demonstrating to an international public a commitment to protect the future.

CANADA/EC FISHERIES RELATIONS

Negotiations were held in Brussels, November 26-28, on a new Canada/EC fisheries agreement. The Canadian side was led by

Mr. A. Campbell, Director-General, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; the Community side was led by Mr. R. Simonnet, Director, DG-XIV, in the European Commission. The two negotiators initialled an agreement which must now be approved by the Canadian Government and the Council of the European Communities.

TELIDON A LIEGE

Du 24 au 30 novembre 1980, le système canadien de télévision interactive TELIDON était en démonstration à Liège, dans le cadre du Festival du Futur, organisé à l'occasion du millénaire de la Principauté de Liège. Grâce à la coopération de la RTBF, les trois principaux systèmes vidéotex en existence étaient exposés sur le même stand, permettant une comparaison directe de leurs différentes caractéristiques. Une autre série de démonstrations de TELIDON est prévue pour la dernière semaine de janvier à l'Ambassade du Canada à Bruxelles.

SPACE RESEARCH

Two scientists from the National Research Council of Canada have developed an "eye" for the Canadian-designed robot arm that astronauts will depend on during future voyages of the United States space shuttle. "The eye is an electronic substitute for human vision and it works beautifully", say the scientists, who have just returned from demonstrating the device to American space officials.

VISITE DU PREMIER MINISTRE DU QUEBEC

Au moment d'aller sous presse, on attendait la visite à la Commission européenne du Premier ministre du Québec, M. René Lévesque, accompagné de M. Bernard Landry, Ministre d'état au développement économique. Le Premier ministre québécois rencontrera le Président Jenkins le 12 décembre. Le Ministre Landry, pour sa part, aura un entretien avec les Commissaires Cheysson et Davignon.

