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UNCTAD makes progress towards reducing disparities between nations

The recent United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi "was, without question, a most important step in the efforts to reduce disparities between developed and developing countries which were initiated at the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations," declared Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen, in a report to the House of Commons on June 10.

At the Special Session, he continued, Canada had used its resources and influence in a determined effort to help bring about a constructive change in the international economic system and thereby reduce the gap between developed and developing countries.

Passages from Mr. MacEachen's statement to the House follow:

* * * *

UNCTAD IV was the first major UN conference following the Seventh Special Session, and in its disagreements as well as in its accords, it reflected these new dimensions: there were efforts to address these questions at a practical level; there were some important new commitments; there was agreement to create a program, timetable and framework for the central issues in which the many essential decisions can be taken.

In my statement to the conference on May 7, I touched on the four areas Canada considered would be the main issues to be dealt with: the problems of stabilization of commodity trade, the alleviation of the debt-servicing difficulties of many developing countries, liberalization of trade to benefit developing countries, and the transfer of technology to developing countries. Of these, the commodities issue proved to be the central focus of the conference. Indeed, the adoption — by consensus — of a resolution which established an integrated program for commodities was the major achievement of UNCTAD IV. The resolution defines the objectives of the integrated program, proposes a list of 18 commodities of particular interest to the developing countries for consideration, describes the international measures to be taken in the context of the program, and establishes procedures and a timetable for pursuing it.

Canada common fund contributor

On the important question of a common fund, the resolution provides for a

negotiating conference to be held next year and for a series of preparatory meetings. As a major importer and exporter of commodities we shall be actively involved in these international discussions and shall work with the other participants to resolve the problems of commodity trade which concern developing countries. These discussions and negotiations will provide the appropriate basis for examining the "parameters" of a common fund and for a decision regarding its establishment.... If we are satisfied in the course of these commodity meetings and negotiations that the common fund will be effective and useful, Canada will make a contribution to it.

The conference also took an important decision on the subject of the financial problems of developing countries by adopting, again by consensus, a resolution on the debt problems of developing countries. The resolution calls for appropriate international bodies to identify features relating to debt-servicing problems which could provide guidance in the future for dealing with them. In addition, a ministerial session of the UNCTAD Board will be held in 1977 to review this work and a group of experts will be established to assist in this review....

Apart from these two issues of particular importance, the conference also adopted resolutions on trade liberalization, the transfer of technology and a number of other subjects. One remarkable, and encouraging, aspect of the conference was the fact that 12 of the 13 resolutions approved were adopted by consensus. No previous

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UNCTAD conference has reached such a broad measure of agreement.

Canada supported all of these resolutions, offering explanatory statements on a number of them. We also, together with other industrialized countries, supported a proposal for further study of the concept put forward by the United States. Dr. Kissinger had proposed to the conference that early consideration be given to the establishment of an international resources bank to facilitate resource development in the poorer countries. While we have not reached any final conclusion on this idea, we believe that it fully merited further consideration and we regret that it was narrowly defeated by two votes – the great majority of developing countries abstained on the resolution.

Despite the difficulties which arose at the conference and the problems which still need to be resolved, I believe that the outcome augurs well for the continuing dialogue between the developed and developing countries. Most especially, the positive results of the conference, particularly in the commodity area, should provide a useful and constructive basis for pursuing the work of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation in Paris.

Optimism for Paris conference

At UNCTAD IV, Dr. Pérez Guerrero stated on behalf of the developing members of CIEC – the Paris conference – that failure in Nairobi could bring into question the continuation of that dialogue. The 19 developing countries which are members of CIEC have now assessed the situation. In the light of the progress made on a number of important questions at Nairobi, they have indeed judged it useful to continue the dialogue in Paris. I fully share the view that there is a satisfactory prospect for balanced progress in CIEC during the remainder of the year. In July, the CIEC will be reviewing the progress it has made and setting its course for the second half of the year. I am confident that the results of UNCTAD IV will help the conference in Paris to pursue its essential objective – the strengthening of international co-operation for the benefit of all.

So far as Canada is concerned, we shall pursue the work outstanding from UNCTAD IV in UNCTAD, CIEC and

other bodies. We shall pursue our interest in improving the international standard for official development assistance. Together with other countries, we shall consider further the balance of payments and debt problems of developing countries and the appropriate measures for meeting them. We shall continue to support the principle of joint producer/consumer financial responsibility, on a mandatory basis, for buffer stock financing within commodity agreements containing such stocks. We shall be actively involved in consultations and negotiations on individual commodities, and on the common fund. We shall devote efforts to see that the developing countries achieve additional benefits in the course of the multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva. We shall take an active part in the elaboration of a voluntary code of conduct for the transfer of technology, which is universally applicable.

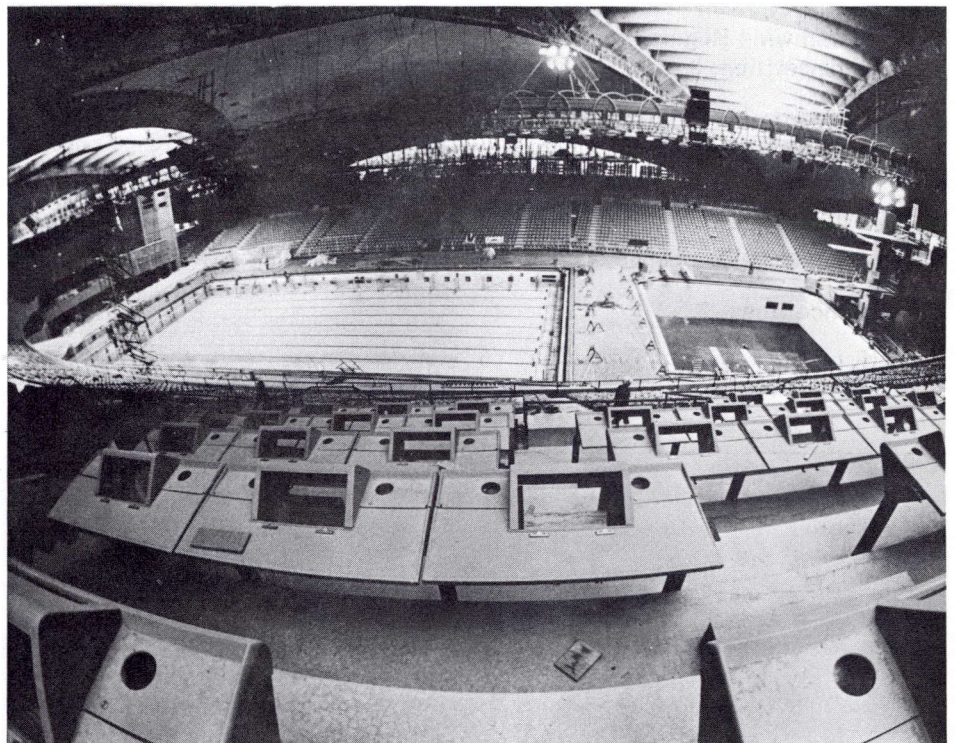
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Olympic Games rehearsal

Four days of general rehearsal from June 26 to 29 will allow the Organizing Committee for the 1976 Olympic Games (COJO) to test the various Olympic sports facilities, services and technical installations, from the electronic and timing equipment to the health and transport services.

Athletics, swimming and diving competitions, water-polo and handball matches, boxing, judo, wrestling and rowing events, shooting and weight-lifting competitions, will take place during these four days at nine competition sites, including the Stadium and the Velodrome. International athletes, who will be already in Montreal, will be invited to participate in the athletics and rowing events.

Admission tickets for the general public to attend these competitions are available for purchase at outlets in Canada.



The Olympic Pool looked like this on May 10, but when the Quebec provincial government officially handed over the main Olympic installations to the Organizing Committee (COJO) on June 3, hundreds of reporters and guests witnessed a swimming and diving display as they toured the new facilities with Games Commissioner

General Roger Rousseau, Premier Robert Bourassa, Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau and other officials. Landscaping, clean-up and testing electronic timing devices were the only jobs outstanding at that date. High school track and field championships on June 26 and 27 at the Olympic Stadium will be its first test.

Breakthrough in wheat self-fertilization

A major discovery at the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Lethbridge, Alberta, brings world food production a step closer to a type of self-fertilizing spring wheat.

Two scientists at the station — Ruby Larson, a wheat geneticist, and John Neal Jr., a soil microbiologist — have genetically altered a type of spring wheat so that it supports soil bacteria which convert nitrogen from the air into a form the plant can use as nutrient.

The bacterial process, called nitrogen fixation, usually involves bacteria that must live and work in harmony with small root nodules on legume plants such as alfalfa to convert nitrogen from the air into a natural fertilizer.

The scientists found for the first time in significant quantities free-living bacteria capable of nitrogen fixation in soil surrounding the roots of spring wheat.

If lines of wheat could be developed that encourage growth of such bacteria in the surrounding soil, it would have far-reaching implications for nitrogen-hungry cereal crops that depend on chemical fertilizers to meet their needs.

The Lethbridge scientists, who reported their findings in the current issue of the British scientific journal,

Soil Biology and Biochemistry, stated that they substituted chromosomes from Cadet wheat with a pair of chromosomes from Rescue wheat. Next, they isolated bacteria from soil surrounding the roots of the altered line of spring wheat, grew the bacteria in the laboratory, and tested them for nitrogen-fixing ability.

“We found the substitution line supported nitrogen-fixing bacteria in the soil environment around its roots. The parental varieties, Cadet and Rescue, did not,” the researchers say.

“As far as we know, this is the first time free-living nitrogen-fixing bacteria have been found in substantial quantities in the root environments of spring wheat.”

The scientific and agricultural excitement comes from the fact that the scientists genetically manipulated their wheat plants to support nitrogen-fixing bacteria. The findings they say, represent “a significant breakthrough”.

Whether the bacteria convert enough nitrogen from the air to provide natural fertilizer for the wheat plants is still not known. Drs. Larson and Neal will try to determine if the soil bacteria around their substitution line of spring wheat can supply significant quantities of nitrogen to the plants.

If they can, the next question could

be: is enough natural fertilizer being supplied by nitrogen-fixation to boost the nitrogen-dependent protein level in the plant?

Whatever the outcome, the door has finally opened a crack toward long dreamed-of cereal crops that can draw on nitrogen in the air to meet an essential part of their fertilizer diets.

Canada/Soviet fishing pact

Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen announced on June 1 the conclusion of an agreement between Canada and the Soviet Union on fisheries matters, effective immediately.

The agreement, signed in Moscow on May 19 by the Minister of State for Fisheries, Roméo LeBlanc, and Soviet Fisheries Minister Ishkov, sets out the terms and conditions that will govern continued fishing by Soviet fishing vessels in areas to be brought under Canadian jurisdiction beyond the present limits of the Canadian territorial sea and fishing zones off the Canadian coast. It will permit Soviet vessels to fish in the area concerned, under Canadian authority and control, for resources surplus to Canadian requirements.

First Canadian honorary Carioca

Roger B. Blake, Canadian Consul in Rio de Janeiro (left) presents to Canadian painter Paul Duff a medal and diploma of the Honorary Citizenship of Rio de Janeiro (“honorary Carioca”) granted to him in May, by the Brazilian newspaper O Globo and the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro.

He received the honour “for the excellent work he develops with 400 students of 40 different nationalities, helping them to adapt themselves to life in Rio, and as a painter, for the constant use of our vegetation in his paintings”.

Mr. Duff, whose works were exhibited at the National Museum of Fine Arts of Brazil and in seven cities in that country, is the first Canadian to receive this distinction. A film of the ceremony, broadcast on prime time on the O Globo TV chain, is reported to have reached some 22 million viewers.



Fire in the forest

Although Canadians are spared most of nature's great calamities, they are more than familiar with one of the most spectacular — wildfire. Fires caused by lightning preceded man's arrival on the North American continent some 20,000 years ago. Evidence of extensive and repeated fires is found in the presence of charcoal in soil profiles, fire scars on old trees, and the reports of early explorers.

Indians caused many forest and prairie fires, sometimes when using fire for protection against insects, or while burning vegetation to expose wildlife or to improve grazing. Early explorers, missionaries, fur traders and land surveyors contributed to a further increase in the number of wildfires.

The most dramatic increase in fires took place in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as waves of settlers, prospectors, lumbermen and railway builders moved west and north. Finding the forest a serious hindrance to settlement and cultivation, they often had a somewhat irresponsible attitude towards fire. In addition, the accumulation of logging debris and the construction of railway rights-of-way greatly increased fire hazards.

A number of catastrophic fires during this period gave impetus to the development of organized forest-fire control in Canada.



At June 8, the largest aerial forest firefighting operation in the history of Ontario was being waged as the Ministry of Natural Resources battled 161 fires in the northern part of the province. Some 42 planes, equipped to drop water or fire-retardants, 46 helicopters and more than 30 small aircraft were being used.

Officials said this year's forest fires may destroy more than one million acres in Ontario alone and could

In New Brunswick, the Great Miramichi Fire of 1825 burned over 6,000 square miles and took 160 lives. A very dry summer in 1901 set the scene for a fire in Northern Ontario that claimed one life and destroyed 3,000 square miles of timber. Fernie, British Columbia, was destroyed by a fire in 1908 that took 25 lives and cost \$5 million in property damage. In 1911, the Porcupine-Cochrane fire killed 73 and covered an area of 864 square miles. Five years later another conflagration in Northern Ontario, the disastrous Matheson fire, burned over 1,000 square miles and took 223 lives.

Fires today

Every region of Canada below the tree-line has experienced vast and destructive forest fires during the past 200 years; many areas have been burnt over more than once. Destructive wildfires continue to occur, but organized fire control, using modern technology, has greatly reduced their extent, especially in easily accessible areas.

Today, lightning starts 25 per cent of all forest fires in Canada, and accounts for more than half the total area burned. The remaining 75 per cent of fires are caused by human carelessness. Although woods operations, land-clearing and railroads are important sources of man-caused fires, recreationists — campers, hunters, fishermen — are the major offenders.

The period from April to October is generally regarded as the forest-fire season, but practically all the fires occur from May to August. In a typical year, most of the damage is caused by a small number of very large fires.

Protection

The provinces are responsible for fire protection on their own terrain —

be worse than in 1974, when 1,294,000 acres of forest were destroyed.

In Nova Scotia, a ban was placed on the lighting of open fires in the woodlands, which will continue until October 15. This year so far, 274 fires have destroyed 34,000 acres in Nova Scotia, compared to about 6,000 acres in 1975. At press time, the provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Manitoba and Quebec were also fighting fires in the forests.

altogether, this constitutes about 80 per cent of Canada's productive forests. In addition, 200,000 square miles of federally-administered land is protected, most of it in the northern territories. Only some of the remote northern regions are not yet entirely covered by systematic detection and suppression capabilities.

Organized forest-fire protection in Canada can be traced back to the early 1900s. Its effectiveness was at first limited by lack of manpower, inade-



The Canso, veteran aircraft of the Second World War, still serves firefighters as an efficient water bomber.

quate equipment, poor communications and the inaccessibility of much of the forested land. But, by the Twenties, aircraft were being used for detection, transportation and, to a limited extent, for water bombing.

The effectiveness of aircraft in fire-control operations increased dramatically after the Second World War, when military aircraft such as the PBV *Canso* and B-26 bomber were converted for dropping water and retardant chemicals. The postwar years really mark the beginning of the modern era of

Puerto Rico economic summit

The heads of states and governments of Britain, Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, Northern Ireland and the United States of America were invited by the President of the United States to meet in Puerto Rico on June 27 and 28 to discuss issues of mutual interest. Progress of their economic recoveries and the current phase of their efforts to attain sustained economic expansion, financial and monetary matters, trade, energy and relations with developing nations were topics to be discussed.

The countries that participated in the meeting at Rambouillet, having agreed to the participation of Italy at the meeting, will examine with the Italian Government whether the latter believes it will be able to take part on the agreed dates.

Patent legislation study

Bryce Mackasey, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, recently released a special study proposing revisions to Canada's patent laws.

The patent system is a means by which the Government confers a controlled monopoly on private individuals and corporations. In Canada today, an overwhelming proportion of Canadian patents — 95 per cent — are granted to non-Canadians. Whether Canada can benefit from the continued maintenance of the present form of patent system is one of the major questions raised in the working paper.

The study, entitled *Working Paper on Patent Law Revision* was prepared by a group of independent experts. Mr. Mackasey noted that the paper did not necessarily represent either the views of the Government or of his department, but rather it provided proposals that would be seriously considered in preparing a new patent law for Canada.

The proposals for a completely new patent law provide an incentive for encouraging research, the disclosure of invention, and the early exploitation of inventions by industry in Canada.

It is hoped that this paper will stimulate such groups as consumers, businessmen, patent agents and academics

to contribute their views. The Minister invited all those interested to submit their comments on the working paper to the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Bureau of Intellectual Property by October 1, 1976, to be considered in the preparation of a major bill to be presented to Parliament revising and bringing up to date the patent legislation.

Omnibus bill will facilitate conversion to the metric system

The Government plans to introduce an omnibus bill in each of the next four years to facilitate or accommodate metric changeover. The first bill to be drafted by the Department of Justice will give top priority to amending measurement clauses where failure to do so would prohibit or inhibit implementation of the metric system. There is provision for a transitional period during which both traditional and metric units may be legally used where necessary.

Scheduling

The 1976 bill will highlight the fact that the scheduling phase of conversion is already under way. As a result of their investigation and planning work, many Metric Commission sector

Milk marketed in metric packages

A new natural milk product in one-litre cartons is the first metric-sized milk package to appear on retail shelves. Marketed under the trade name "Grand Pré", in the province of Quebec, it is produced and distributed by Laiterie Cité Limitée of Quebec City. This product is remarkable — it lasts up to three months without refrigeration.

British Columbia is expected to begin selling metric-sized milk products later this year. The tentative target date for the beginning of conversion of fluid milk packs in B.C. is July 1, 1976. Other provinces have set target dates from 1976 through 1978; however, these are not yet definite.

In addition to the one-litre size, milk will most likely be marketed in 200 millilitres, 500 millilitres and two-litre cartons and in three-, four- and five-litre pouches.

committees have scheduled the start of their implementation phase in 1976 or early 1977. Legislative subcommittees of each sector are already identifying where legislative changes are required and will work with the appropriate level of government to effect the change.

The principle is that hard conversion and rationalization should be used. Hard conversion means replacement of traditional measurement units by rounded, logical metric units. With hard conversion the physical size of products and packages will be changed; in soft conversion there is no change, which results in metric units usually being given in odd numbers.

Rationalization

For example, milk is currently sold in one-quart containers. With soft conversion, the container size would continue to be one quart or 1.14 litres. With hard conversion and rationalization, there would be a selection of a rational series of sizes such as 200 and 300 ml (millilitres), one-, two-, three-, or four-litre containers.

In preparing amendments, departments and agencies will consult with other federal departments and agencies, provincial government departments and agencies, the Metric Commission and trade, industry and consumer associations.

Stratford film festival cancelled

The Stratford Festival has been forced to cancel the twelfth International Film Festival, owing to lack of funding.

The film festival was to have been held at the Avon Theatre from October 9 to October 16, with representation from film-makers abroad and from the Canadian film industry.

As in the past, plans for the non-competitive event were contingent upon federal and provincial grants, which were expected to be forthcoming. The federal grant has been cut back by one-third, however, and the Ontario government has not been able to guarantee financing at this time. Previously, grants were made available through the Festivals Office, Department of the Secretary of State and through the Ontario government.

French plan wins Regina urban design competition

A top prize of \$25,000 in Regina's International Urban Development Competition has been awarded to Claire and Michel Duplay of Paris, France for their design scheme that may shape the future look of downtown Regina, Saskatchewan. (See also *Canada Weekly* dated March 3, 1976, Page 3).

An international jury chose the design from five finalists who were competing in the second stage of the competition. Just over a year ago, Regina began the competition to seek out imaginative yet practical ideas for re-use of 114 acres of prime urban land that may be vacated by relocation of Canadian Pacific rail lines and marshalling yards.

A second prize of \$15,000 was awarded to the Tokyo firm of Polytechnic Consultants Inc., and a third prize of \$10,000 was awarded to the Los Angeles team of David Brindle and Chris Dawson for their urban design.

Public voted too

A unique feature of the competition was the element of public participation. Citizens of Regina were invited to choose the design they preferred for their city, and their ballots were tabulated as a seventh vote of the six-man jury. It is believed that this is the first time such a method of public involvement has ever been used in an international competition.

The six-man jury included three internationally-known architects: Alexander Kouzmanoff, New York; Fumihiko Maki, Tokyo; Ray Affleck, Montreal — as well as three Canadians sympathetic to the potential of Regina: Douglas Fullerton, economist, Ottawa; Clive Rodham, architect, and member of the Regina City Council; Richard Rendek, lawyer, Regina.

In the winning entry, the jurors announced they saw a realistic yet humanistic approach to "revitalizing" downtown Regina. The design, they pointed out, was a well-knit mixture of old and new, parks, commercial and residential structures, flexible enough to grow with the needs of the city.

"There is a feeling of ingenuity and joy in the whole design. If realized, it

will provide not only great pleasure for Regina but a showcase for cities everywhere," commented one of the jurors.

The vote, gathered through ballots filled in or mailed by the public, favoured the Japanese entry over the French but the six individual jurors were unanimous in their placing.

Next step

The urban design competition is part of the total Regina relocation study that includes possible establishment of new rail facilities at another location, and the re-use of railway rights of way. The city, backed by the province of Saskatchewan must now submit a transportation plan, an urban development plan, and a financial plan to the Canadian Transport Commission to support their application for railway relocation.

The federal Ministry of State for Urban Affairs contributed a total of \$100,000 in prize money for the international competition. In the first stage of the competition, which ended last February, the five finalists were chosen from over international 120 entries, awarded \$10,000 each, and given the chance to compete again by submitting more detailed design schemes.

Fertility regulation studies in Canada, Egypt and India

Three studies of the acceptability, effectiveness and possible side-effects of various forms of fertility regulation are being supported with grants totaling \$620,255 from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), President W. David Hopper announced recently. The studies, which will take place in Canada, Egypt and India, will involve the co-operation of about 15,000 women.

A \$259,000-grant to the Canadian Committee for Fertility Research will enable this co-ordinating body to set up a scientific advisory committee, hold training seminars and implement several research studies, possibly including a survey of infertility.

A grant of \$273,285 to the Indian Council of Medical Research will cover the costs of ten teams studying the effects, both medical and psychological,

of various methods of tubal ligation. The third grant, of \$87,970 to the International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, will allow Egyptian gynaecologists to carry out clinical trials with Medroxy Progesterone Acetate (MPA) as a post-partum contraceptive.

New begonia variety

Plant lovers may soon be adding a new Rieger begonia to their windowsill collections.

The begonia, developed at Agriculture Canada's Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa by X-ray radiation of an older variety, has salmon-rose, semi-double blooms. Easily propagated by leaf cuttings, it is suitable for year-round production as a pot plant and grows well in semi-shade in the garden. It was named Northern Sunset by its originator, J.M. Molnar, chief of the Research Section, Ornamentals Research Service.

The new begonia is only one example of the ways Agriculture Canada is helping this country's fast-growing greenhouse floriculture industry.

The farm value of greenhouse flowers and plant crops totalled \$88.3 million in 1974, a 24 percent increase over the 1973 total.



Dr. J.M. Molnar of Ornamentals Research Service displays two new begonia varieties he developed.

Olympic ceremonies stamps

The last three Olympic commemorative stamps, featuring the traditional ceremonies of the Games, the flame lighting, the opening, and the victory, were issued by Canada Post on June 18.

The Olympic series of 35 stamps, the largest ever undertaken by the Post Office, began in autumn 1973. In this final issue, a total of 35 million 8-cent, 14 million 20-cent, and 11 million



25-cent stamps will be printed. The 8-cent denomination depicts the transfer of the Olympic flame from Greece to Canada *via* satellite; the 20-cent shows the Olympic flag being carried in the opening ceremony; and the 25-cent denomination shows athletes receiving their Olympic medals.

Opening tradition

The opening ceremony will take place at the Olympic stadium and Queen Elizabeth, Canada's head of state, will declare the Games open. The day's ritual will include the entry of the athletes, headed by the Greek national team. Other countries will follow in alphabetical order, with the exception of Canada which, as host country, will appear last.

To welcome the competitors, a group of young Canadians will give a display of rhythmic dancing. The flame will arrive after three guns have been fired and a flock of pigeons ascends from the stadium. (This is assuming the birds co-operate — in 1936, when pigeons were released, they refused to depart!) After the runner with the torch has circled the track, he or she will light the Olympic flame which will burn until the Games end. The mayor of the previous host city,



Munich, will hand over the official Olympic flag to Montreal's mayor at the finale of the opening ceremony.

Victory ceremony

Shortly after the final contest in each sport, victory ceremonies take place at which first-, second-, and third-place winners receive their gold, silver, and bronze medals. Other activities will cease while the winners mount the podium to receive their medals from the president of the international federation of their particular



The entire collection of Olympic stamps issued by Canada Post has been gathered together and reproduced on a four-colour poster designed by Peter Swan. Suitable for framing, the 24- by 36-inch poster highlights the three Olympic ceremonies featured in Canada's newest issue of Olympic commemorative stamps — the flame ceremony, the opening ceremony and the victory ceremony.

sport. After the flags of the three winners' countries are raised and after the national anthem of the gold medallist's country is played, events resume.

Flame lighting

Spectators at the 1936 Berlin Games witnessed the first Olympic flame ceremony. Relay runners carried a torch from Olympia, Greece, to the German capital. At Olympia, in 1976, the sun will, as usual, kindle a flame, but once runners have carried it to Athens, a



satellite will transmit it to Canada. At Athens, the flame, when placed between two metal plates will stimulate an electrical charge. This will start a device producing a sequence of tones which will travel over telephone lines to a transmitting station and subsequently to the satellite. When the tones reach Canada, they will flash *via* telephone wires to Parliament Hill in Ottawa, where they will revert to their fiery form through the medium of a laser beam. From Ottawa, runners will speed the flame to Montreal and Kingston.

Fraudulence fines

Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Bryce Mackasey reported on June 3 that 56 firms were convicted for offences under the Food and Drugs, Weights and Measures, Hazardous Products, Canada Agricultural Products Standards and Textile Labelling Acts from January to March 1976.

Fines for convictions for the three months totalled \$14,125 and bring the total for the six months from October to March to \$26,770.

Of the 56 convictions involving 103 charges, 28 were under the Weights

and Measures Act, 25 under the Food and Drugs Act, and one each under the Canada Agricultural Products Standards, Hazardous Products and Textile Labelling Acts, respectively. In addition, 90 cases are still in progress.

Of particular concern was the conviction recorded under the Textile Labelling Act, under which Liberty Discount Stores of Vanier, Ontario was fined \$1,000 for failing to comply with regulations requiring a statement of fibre content on sweater labels.

"With the many natural and synthetic fibres available in the marketplace today, it is important that consumer textile articles be properly labelled so that consumers may identify them easily, be better able to comparison-shop; and also apply the appropriate cleaning process for the fibre," said Mr. Mackasey.

Fire in the forest

(Continued from P. 4)

forest-fire control in Canada.

Today, forest firefighting depends heavily on the use of aircraft. Air-tankers have been developed with varying capacities to suit different needs, from the *Beaver* (80 gallons) to the giant *Martin Mars* flying-boat (6,000 gallons). The *Canadair CL-215*, the world's first plane designed specially to combat forest fires, was designed and built in this country. Helicopters, because of their versatility and their accuracy for water and retardant dropping, are being used increasingly in forest-fire suppression.

Important as these advances are, water dropping remains primarily a holding action and must be closely coordinated with or followed by control action on the ground. Aided by various types of mechanized ground equipment, hand-tool crews are still the "infantry" in the battle against forest fires.

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

However, no method or combination of forces yet developed can effectively suppress a large "crown" fire — one that spreads through the tops of coniferous forests during high winds, sometimes at a rate of more than four miles an hour. When this occurs, men and equipment must first be brought to safety, and a new line of defence established. Sometimes a substantial area of forest must be sacrificed to gain the time needed to construct an effective firebreak against a "crowning" fire.

Uses of fire

In recent years a new dimension has been added to the science of forest-fire control — prescribed burning. This is not as contradictory as it sounds; while continuously improving techniques to control the indiscriminate burning of nature, man has also begun

to take advantage of the beneficial aspects of fire by using it in those places and at those times that will provide the results he seeks.

Prescribed burning is most commonly used to reduce the hazard of logging debris and to prepare suitable ground conditions for planting or seeding. Other applications include removal of unwanted brush or tree species, improvement of wildlife habitat, control of insect and disease outbreaks, and backfiring to stop a wildfire.

Intentional burning on forested land is carried out only after a thorough evaluation of the expected results — both beneficial and adverse — and careful planning by experienced fire-managers. In a prescribed "burn", the size, intensity, and rate-of-spread of the fire are under control at all times. It is obviously not a technique to be used by amateurs.

News briefs

- The price of natural gas exported to the United States will rise in two stages by 34 cents a thousand cubic feet, announced Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie on June 10. On September 10 it will be increased by 20 cents a thousand cubic feet and a further 14 cents on January 1.
- Crude oil production in Alberta averaged 1,360,000 barrels a day last year, down 14 per cent from the 1974 figure, says the Alberta Energy Resources Board in its 1975 annual report.
- William John Patterson, a former premier and lieutenant-governor of Saskatchewan between 1951 and 1958, died on June 10 at the age of 90.
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canadian troops began patrolling the Canada/United States border the week of June 7 as part of the \$100-million security program for the Olympics in Montreal.
- A legal fight over British Columbia's government automobile insurance plan began June 8 in the Supreme Court of Canada, with 37 insurance companies attacking the plan.
- National unemployment declined slightly to 7.1 per cent in May from 7.4 per cent in April because fewer people joined the labour force, says Statistics Canada. The number out of

work decreased to 708,000 from 769,000 in the same period.

- Canada, the United States and nine other countries have joined the World Bank to provide emergency credits of \$5 billion to help the falling British pound. Canada will provide up to \$300 million.
- Relief operations in Italy performed by Canadians since the earthquake have been taken over by Italian authorities. Labour Minister John Munro toured the disaster area, June 7 to 9, to assess the effectiveness of Canada's emergency relief effort there.
- Petro-Canada, owned by the Federal Government, has an exploration budget of \$100 million for its first year of operation, company president Maurice Strong says.
- The Canadian Consul in Los Angeles, Vimie E. Kilsby, received the YWCA Achievement Award last month in Los Angeles. Criteria for the award were job responsibility, community participation and diversification of job context.
- President Seretse Khama of Botswana began a five-day official visit to Canada on June 11.
- Provincial premiers met Prime Minister Trudeau in Ottawa, June 14 and 15, continuing discussions on the costs of social welfare programs, education and the Constitution.