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Busy year for the International Development Research Centre

The 12 months from April 1976 to March 1977 were active for the International Development Research Centre, during which the Centre has seen a number of its initiatives come to fruition.

The IDRC played a key role in the establishment of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, and was instrumental in bringing together a group of donors to establish the International Council for Research in Agroforestry, which will begin operations in the near future. Both these institutions were created to fill large gaps in the research capabilities of the Third World.

The Centre also continues to make a major contribution to the establishment and expansion of international information systems in fields such as agriculture, rural water-supply and sanitation, and

development sciences — systems that will provide for a worldwide exchange of scientific information.

During the year, the Centre's international Board of Governors approved 137 new projects requiring a total appropriation of \$26.7 million — a considerable increase over that of the previous years. The Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences Division undertook 55 new projects costing \$12 million; the Social Sciences and Human Resources Division 25 new projects costing \$5.7 million; the Health Sciences Division 29 new projects for \$4.1 million; and the Information Sciences Division 21 new projects for \$4.5 million.

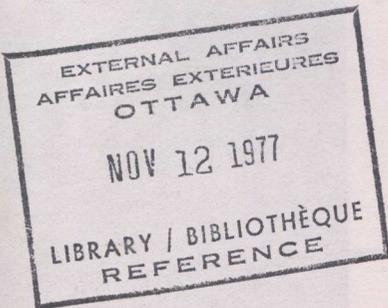
A further \$1.9 million was committed during the year in support of 216 "Division Activity Projects" — seminars, workshops and consultancies that are usually preliminary to the undertaking of full-scale projects. The Centre also continued to invest heavily in the training and development of young Third World professionals through its Human Resources Award Program, which made available 87 grants totalling \$1.8 million.

During the year, 42 projects were completed, bringing to 94 the number completed since the Centre opened its doors. In addition, many projects have now entered a second, or even a third, phase, as researchers continue to build on the results of earlier years.

A considerable number of the Centre's headquarters staff are Third World nationals, and the majority of the staff of the five regional offices are drawn from the regions they serve. The regional offices — in Bogota, Cairo, Dakar, Nairobi, and Singapore — are vital to the Centre's operations. They are in the front line, maintaining essential contact with the governments, research institutions, universities, research workers and scientists of the developing countries, and providing the communications link to ensure

The International Development Research Centre is a public corporation established by an act of the Canadian Parliament "to initiate, encourage, support and conduct research into the problems of the developing regions of the world and into the means for applying and adapting scientific, technical and other knowledge to the economic and social advancement of those regions, and, in carrying out those objects,

- to enlist the talents of natural and social scientists and technologists of Canada and other countries;
- to assist the developing regions to build up the research capabilities, the innovative skills and the institutions required to solve their problems;
- to encourage generally the co-ordination of international development research; and
- to foster co-operation in research on development problems between the developed and the developing regions for their mutual benefit".



Sept. 7/77



Clyde Sanger

The Canadian-based IDRC supports research projects in the developing areas of the world. (Above) fish netting at Mardi aquaculture research station in Malaysia; (below) a village health volunteer examines a baby in Thailand; and (right) Ethiopian housewife makes bread with triticale under triticale improvement project.

that the Centre's priorities remain relevant to the needs and aspirations of the nations of the Third World.

Whatever plans governments may devise to speed the development of their countries, their implementation depends in large part on the efficiency and honesty of their bureaucracies. Yet little is known about either the extent or the effect (socially or economically) of "negative bureaucratic behaviour" on development efforts.

In 1975, the Centre approved a grant to three governments that had requested support for a pioneering study of negative behaviour within their own bureaucracies.

News of the study generated considerable interest in the region. Within a few months, two more countries joined the original three, and during the past year proposals were received from five more, bringing the total number of participants to ten.

The studies, lasting two years, will begin by identifying and analyzing negative bureaucratic behaviour, which for this project is defined in terms of legal, not moral criteria. The researchers will also study the differences between what is socially acceptable on the one hand, and what the law considers to be acceptable on the other.

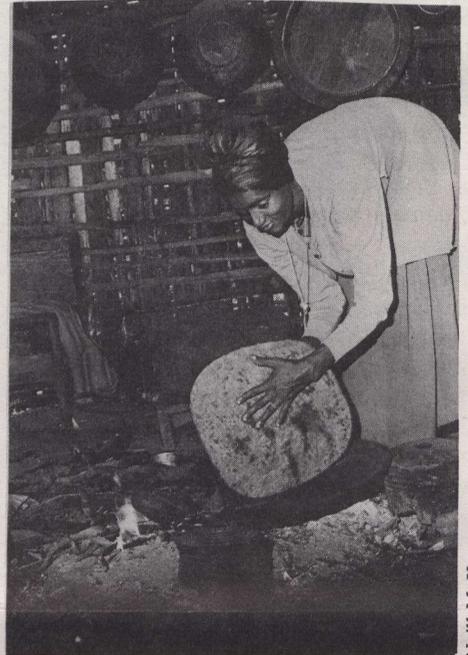


Neill McKee

Land redistribution

Many of the problems of the cities, especially in developing countries, are the result of mass migration from the rural areas. All over the world people are leaving the land, moving from the villages and towns to the cities in search of a better life, with the result that already overcrowded cities become impossibly congested.

Some countries have made attempts to persuade, or coerce people back to the land, to resettle them in new communities away from the cities. Small farmers are encouraged to form village associations, to which they contribute a small portion of their incomes as savings, and through which they receive training in modern farming techniques and co-



Neill McKee

operative organization. Only when it is ready is the association transformed into a "co-operative" under the management of a full-time government official. To retain their membership, farmers must continue to contribute savings and practise modern farming. Membership is important, because only members can obtain credit and participate in the land reform program.

For the past three years, the IDRC has been supporting an evaluation by the University of the Philippines of the impact of the program, with the objective of making it more effective and efficient. The evaluation, now completed, has been a major undertaking. There are some 15,000 village associations in 40 of the

(Cont'd. on P. 7)

Quebec's language law approved

Bill 101, Quebec's controversial language legislation, was adopted by a vote of 54-32 in the provincial legislature on August 26. (See *Canada Weekly* issues dated July 6, P. 3 and July 27, P. 3.)

While the basic principles in the White Paper tabled by Quebec Cultural Development Minister Camille Laurin on April 27, remain unchanged, several amendments have been made, including: a new section exempting children with serious learning disabilities from restrictions on entrance to English schools in the province; a new section permitting access to English schools by children moving to Quebec from other provinces, if those provinces sign "reciprocity agreements" guaranteeing education in French for those desiring it; and a change that gives corporate head offices which work mainly in English a chance to negotiate individual programs with the French-language office for the promotion of French in their operations.

Basic principles

Included in the new legislation are the following basic principles:

- Future access to English schools will be restricted to children whose mother or father attended English elementary schools in Quebec (with some transitional exceptions).
- Businesses must obtain by 1983 certi-

Pressure for action by Federal Government expected

According to a report by the Canadian Press, the Federal Government can expect increased pressure to take some action on Quebec's new language legislation, now that it has become law.

The report said that Postmaster-General Jean-Jacques Blais stated the Federal Government would discuss the question at a Cabinet meeting scheduled early in September. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau had said earlier that the Federal Government could take no action until the bill became law and, at that time, constitutionality of the legislation could be investigated.

Canadian Press continued: "The Progressive Conservative opposition has also been pressing for a constitutional challenge of the legislation, as it feels it infringes upon the rights of Quebec's English-speaking minority by limiting enrolment in the province's English schools.

"Provincial politicians across Canada reacted with a mixture of regret and disappointment to the passage of Bill 101.

"David Steuart, Liberal senator for Saskatchewan, said the controversial language legislation would drive a wedge between the French-speaking people of Quebec and the rest of Canada. 'It's a shame, when the rest of Canada is moving to greater recognition of bilingualism and minority-language rights, that Quebec... is turning back the clock,' Steuart said.

"Ontario Liberal Leader Stuart Smith, a native of Montreal, described the bill as a regrettable piece of legislation but Ontario Premier William Davis reacted with more optimism.

"Davis said he hoped Quebec would 're-think...Bill 101, particularly in light of initiatives being taken in French-language education across Canada.'

"Ontario NDP Leader Stephen Lewis said he 'regrets greatly the indecent speed with which the bill was pushed through the assembly.'"

ficates attesting to their efforts to promote the use of French and the employing of French-speaking people.

- French is the only official version of court judgments, arbitration rulings, laws and government regulations.
- French is the language of the public

administration, including government, government agencies, municipal administrations, school boards, health and social services, although English may be used for internal communications for mainly English-speaking boards, city administrations, hospitals and social services.

UN delegates face lively session

Delegates from 149 countries will again meet in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations in a few days to begin discussions on well over 100 agenda items. While some of these deal with issues that have defied solution for over three decades, the search will continue for ideas and compromises that may point the way to the settlement of seemingly intractable problems.

As is traditional, the thirty-second session will open on the third Tuesday of September. This year, it will be preceded by a brief resumption of the thirty-first session, which will be reconvened on September 13 to consider the results of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC). This Conference, which had its origin in a UN resolu-

tion, brought together 27 nations, representing the views of developed as well as developing countries. Canada's representative, Allan MacEachen, President of the Privy Council, was elected Co-Chairman of CIEC, which for 18 months subjected the economic relations between the developed and the developing world to the closest scrutiny. CIEC completed its proceedings in Paris on June 2 with the adoption by consensus of its final report. After this report has been formally received by the thirty-first session, it will undoubtedly be carried over to the subsequent session for detailed consideration in the Economic Committee.

Southern Africa

A further question that will be intensively debated in New York this fall will be the situation in southern Africa. In this

region, three separate, but interrelated issues will occupy the attention of the delegates, and several new developments call for a fresh evaluation of the situation. The Western Security Council members, including Canada, have launched an initiative aimed at bringing about the independence of Namibia (Southwest Africa) on the basis of fair and free elections under UN supervision and control. Prospects for a peaceful, negotiated settlement in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) will also be examined, as well as the current status of *apartheid* in the Republic of South Africa.

Middle East

As in the past years, the situation in the Middle East will be debated under several headings: support for the UN Relief and Works Agency, the Question of Palestine, the Peace Conference on the Middle East,

as well as the situation in the region generally. A new government in Israel, and a new administration in the United States are fresh elements in an equation that will again be closely examined in the hope that some progress towards a lasting peace might be possible.

The question of Cyprus, where Canadian troops have been stationed as part of a UN peacekeeping force since 1964, is also on the agenda. The recent death of Archbishop Makarios, the late President of Cyprus, may well have further complicated an already difficult situation and efforts will be directed at breaking the current deadlock on negotiations between the parties to the disputes.

Other subjects that will be debated at UNGA XXXII include disarmament and arms control, with the main focus on preparation for the special session devoted to disarmament, to be held in 1978. During recent years there has also been a trend to a more searching examination of human rights questions, and it is

likely that they will again figure prominently in the debates at the upcoming session. Also, problems relating to the law of the sea will be discussed, following the completion of the sixth session of the third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, held in New York this past summer.

All these issues, plus scores of others, will be discussed in countless committee meetings and plenary sessions, often until late in the night. The many resolutions that are introduced will, as always, be the subject of hard bargaining. The ones that are finally adopted represent the political process at the UN and are an indication of the state of the world as it is today. The Canadian delegation, led by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, will play an active role in the deliberations at the UN, and the delegates who have been named to represent Canada in the various committees are looking forward to an extremely busy three months.

Canada condemns apartheid

Robert Stanbury, M.P., the Canadian delegate to and Vice-President of the World Conference for Action Against *Apartheid*, held recently in Lagos, Nigeria, expressed support for the aims of the conference and pledged the active involvement of the Canadian Government. Excerpts from the Canadian statement follow:

* * * * *

"The past two years have witnessed a blossoming of determination of the South African majority to achieve full equality. This determination, particularly among youth, to demand of their society opportunities no less than those available to any other citizen cannot be suppressed. It will continue to grow, and if full-scale racial war is to be avoided, the Government of South Africa must begin now, in co-operation with all its citizens, to restructure South African society. It is a formidable task but one that must be achieved before bitterness and disillusionment so deepen as to poison the well of hope for future racial harmony.

"The fundamental reform of South Africa into a non-racial society can be accomplished only by South Africans. International efforts must focus on actions that will, on one hand, encourage a change of mind and of heart of those

now in power, and, on the other hand, give moral, political and humanitarian support to the majority of South Africans in their long and hard struggle to achieve justice and equality.

"Canada has strongly supported pragmatic and effective international action to promote eradication of the *apartheid*



Recent contributions to the UN. Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN, Paul André Lapointe (left) presents two cheques to Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim — one for \$100,000 for the UN Fund for Namibia, the second for \$250,000, a contribution to the Educational Trust Fund for Southern Africa.

system. In 1963, for example, we placed an embargo on the sale of military equipment to South Africa and in 1970 expanded this embargo to cover spare parts for such equipment in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions. Canada is a major contributor to the United Nations and non-governmental funds that have been established to provide educational training and humanitarian assistance to the majority peoples of South Africa. Our United Nations Ambassador is Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Educational and Training Program for Southern Africa. We consider such programs essential and of increasing importance, particularly in view of the massive outflow of people from South Africa in the wake of the repressions of the past year. We appeal to all members of the international community to provide generous support to such United Nations' and other international and non-governmental organizations' programs, and to assist the African states that have generously responded to the plight of these South Africans.

"We support the termination of sporting contacts with South African individuals and teams and we have been participating in the elaboration of a declaration on this subject. It is our firm hope that a declaration whose terms will draw universal support will be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its coming session. A consensus declaration would serve as a coherent expression of the unanimity of the international community on this issue.

* * * * *

The *apartheid* policies of South Africa lie at the core of the issues menacing the stability of southern Africa. Not until each of these issues has been resolved in favour of basic human rights and racial justice will that region enjoy the harmony and stability which all desire for it. The international community is committed with growing intensity and singleness of purpose to the elimination of *apartheid*. If this conference reflects that in the adoption of a strong consensus declaration, it will give impetus to the struggle of South Africans to gain the enjoyment of their inherent rights through majority rule. This conference will succeed, and will come to be seen as a milestone in the progress of freedom, if it emphasizes and builds upon our common objectives — the end of *apartheid* and the development of a just society in South Africa."

News of the arts

International screen personalities attend film festival

Montreal's first World Film Festival, recently held at the site of Expo '67, attracted international stars, directors and representatives of major film studios, as well as avid film students.

Gloria Swanson, whose film *Sunset Boulevard* was given retrospective attention, Canadian-born Fay Wray (star of the original *King Kong*, also screened), Richard Thomas, of *The Waltons* television series, Ingrid Bergman, Howard Hawks, and Jean-Luc Godard, of France, all appeared. Miss Bergman opened the festival in place of her late husband, Roberto Rossellini, who had been named honorary president of the festival before his death.

Serge Losique, head of the Conservatoire Cinematique in Montreal, founded the festival, which offered over 100 feature films, including several which received critical acclaim at Cannes, France. He also arranged the world *première* of six Canadian feature films: Timothy Bond's *Deadly Harvest*, Peter Carter's *Rituals*, Peter Sasdy's *Welcome to Blood City*, Denis Heroux' *The Uncanny*, Zale Dalen's *Skip Tracer*, and Robin Spry's *One Man*. The festival closely preceded Toronto's upcoming Festival of Festivals, a similar and competitive exhibition.

Novel ballet group

Dancemakers, a growing force in Canada's performing arts scene, is the first truly repertory dance company in Toronto. The company was formed by dancers from the Toronto Dance Theatre and York University — later, dancers from the National Ballet of Canada joined.

Consisting of four women and two men, the dancers choose with whom they wish to work and take on the responsibility of ensuring that quality is maintained. Diversity of choreographic styles and programming lends an eclectism to Dancemakers' shows, with dances ranging from classical to humorous.

The company has attempted to develop a program which bridges the gap that a formal theatre situation creates between audience and performer. The show opens informally and is interspersed with explanations and participation. A discussion follows the last dance.

Museum's Discovery Room a "visual and tactile adventure"

The Royal Ontario Museum's newly opened Discovery Room brims with historical and natural artifacts and specimens which, for the first time, the visitor can handle and examine at leisure. The Discovery Room, an experiment that has been in preparation for more than a year, is another phase of the ROM's program of renovation and expansion. It is unique in that the visitor can learn at his own pace some of the processes that materials undergo when they are museum property.

Visitors, invited to use the basic investigative techniques used by ROM researchers, may examine strange artifacts called "stumpers", or probe the mysteries of "discovery boxes", dedicated to experiential learning and fun, and equipped



Two young explorers test the material on hand in the Discovery Room. They are looking up information on birds while referring to an actual specimen.



Royal Ontario Museum

With the Discovery Room, the Museum opens itself to the blind in a way that it's never done before. Volunteers and staff working in the Transcriptions Department of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind have prepared Braille plates and cards to supplement the content of the room. (Above) visitors from the CNIB enjoy the "Touch Wall".

with question and answer cards. The most complex components in the Discovery Room are called "Identification Units". These packages are oriented to collectors and those more advanced in certain fields. With the help of the labelled specimens, microscopes and written material, the visitor can identify his own specimens.

The new room is also an international place of exploration. Information cards, labels and other material appear in French, Italian, Chinese, German and Portuguese and many of the museum staff assisting in the room also speak languages other than English.

Canadian performers offered protection from foreign competitors

Manpower and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen, after consultation with Secretary of State John Roberts, has announced the Government's intention to introduce measures to regulate more closely the entry of foreign entertainers coming to Canada for short-term engagements.

"At present," Mr. Cullen said, "foreign entertainers come to Canada for engagements regardless of whether qualified Canadians are available or not. The rules

that Canadian entertainers face when seeking work in foreign countries are much less generous."

The new system will be designed to support the development of Canada's entertainment industry and to benefit Canadian performing artists. "I want to make it clear," Mr. Cullen said, "that my Department has no intention of preventing Canadians from working with or seeing the best talent available whether Can-

adian or foreign." In addition, he commented, "large touring groups such as big bands and dance companies will be exempt from the new provisions as will star performers in all sectors of the industry."

Proposed employment visa regulations require that Canada Manpower be satisfied that employers have considered available Canadian talent before giving a contract to a foreign performer. The Department will depend on the cooperation of and advice from groups in the community such as unions, employer organizations and cultural associations.

New pennies to be smaller

Beginning in January 1978 Canada will mint a new one-cent coin. The new coin, reduced from the present 19.05 millimeters to a diameter of 16 millimeters, will retain the design of Queen Elizabeth II, created by Arnold Machin. The reverse of the coin will have a new design consisting of the digit "1" surrounded by 12 miniature maple leaves. The year and the words "Canada" and "cent" will also be engraved on the reverse.



The decision to reduce the size of the coin was made for economic reasons since production costs including minting and the price of the metal exceeded the nominal value. To this effect, Part II of the Appendix to the Currency and Exchange Act has been amended by the Governor in Council to change the weight of the one cent coin from 3.24 grams (50 grains) to 1.8 grams (27.78 grains).

The mint has renewed contracts with El Salvador and Costa Rica for the production of circulating coins for their countries. Twenty million coins will be minted for El Salvador and six million for Costa Rica, for a combined value of

\$250,000. The mint has also been informed by New Zealand that its offer for the production of 210 million circulating coins has been accepted. The new contract, worth about \$3.6 million, will extend over three years.

Interim pollution contingency plan with Denmark

Canada and Denmark recently signed an interim marine-pollution contingency plan applicable to the waters of the Labrador Sea, Davis Strait, Baffin Bay and Nares Strait, which separate Canada and Greenland. The plan, an inter-agency arrangement between the Canadian Coast Guard and the Danish Ministry for Greenland, is intended to provide a co-ordinated response to oil pollution caused by off-shore drilling accidents. Under the plan, each side is obliged to allow observers of the other to monitor clean-up operations in its own waters and, in the event of potential or actual transfrontier pollution, representatives of the two agencies are to ensure the co-ordination of clean-up plans.

The contingency plan is an interim arrangement only, pending further discussion between the two governments on the question of financial responsibility for an incident in the waters of one state that causes damage in the waters of the other.

Optimism for economic growth in all provinces

According to the provincial economic forecasts of the Conference Board in Canada, all provinces will enjoy a faster rate of growth in 1978 than in 1977, with the strongest recovery taking place in the Atlantic provinces.

Ontario's growth rate next year will be faster than that of any other province with a 5.5 percent gain in real domestic product, compared with a 3.4 percent rise this year. Construction activity will be particularly strong and the unemployment rate will drop slightly to 6.9 percent from an average of 7.1 percent this year.

The Quebec economy will show an improvement in 1978, with the province's unemployment rate declining to 9.3 percent compared to an average 9.7 percent

in 1977. However, its economic growth will still be slower than the average for Canada as a whole.

The Board is forecasting a reduction in the national unemployment rate to 7.7 percent in 1978 from an average of 8 percent in 1977. National economic growth is expected to help speed up employment growth to 2.9 percent from a 1.9 percent gain this year.

There should be particularly strong growth in construction, transportation, communications and utilities industries, with some additional improvement in manufacturing and service sectors. Agricultural output will reverse its 1977 decline but is not expected to approach the near record levels of 1976. A modest advance is forecast for mining, while forestry will sustain the high levels achieved as a result of strong growth in the previous two years.

Mental health research

Dr. Nelson Cauthen and Dr. Donald Bakal, both of the University of Calgary, have received grants from the Alberta government to continue their respective examinations of the relation between biological and environmental factors in behaviour.

Dr. Cauthen, who is currently involved in the "detection of genetic predisposition to schizophrenia", hopes to isolate schizophrenic patients from those who are predisposed to the illness but who remain clinically normal. By studying both groups, he may be able to prescribe environmental conditions that will prevent those with the predisposition from developing the disorder.

Dr. Cauthen suggests that "in the case of schizophrenia, competencies, for example job skills, may help the individual cope with a potentially crippling psychobiological inheritance".

Schizophrenia, which includes a number of mental and behavioral disorders, such as the tendency to retreat from reality, is one of the most frequently ascertained psychiatric syndromes.

Dr. Bakal plans to continue his treatment of chronic headache sufferers with biofeedback techniques, and hopes to determine whether there is a common basis for muscle contractions and migraine headaches, both still generally considered to be of separate origin. He does not think that "a severe headache is a

response only to stress but more a result of a persistent psychophysiological mechanism that can be triggered by almost any stimulus, including foods, alcohol, stress or tension.... The migraine headache may be an extension of this condition, resulting from years of repeated attacks. In this way the sufferer is unwittingly contributing to his or her own condition". The psychologist's techniques should eventually enable the patient to recognize and control his sensations.

IDRC activities (Cont'd. from P. 2)

country's 68 provinces. About 8,000 people were interviewed throughout the country to obtain comparisons between those provinces that are participating in the land reform program and those that are not. Preliminary reports indicate that the evaluation will benefit not only the 600,000 small farmers in the Philippines, but also their counterparts in other countries where the program's progress is being closely observed.

Small-scale industries

Farming is naturally the primary occupation in rural areas, but there is also a need for alternative or supplementary sources of income and employment. Many developing countries are looking to small-scale industry to provide this alternative, but even where traditional industries already exist, they are often inefficient and poorly managed, and would benefit from expert advice. This is the role of TECHNINET Asia, a network of 11 organizations from nine southeast Asian countries that was formed in 1973 with IDRC support, and entered its second phase during the past year.

Through a monthly newsletter, a technical information service and, most important, the training of industrial extension officers who can respond to requests for assistance from small industries, TECHNINET is providing an important service for Asian industries, many of them in rural areas. During the second phase there are plans to expand the training program and "Asianize" the technical information service so that the network will be autonomous by 1980.

Another Centre-supported project in Asia concerned with the promotion of small-scale industries has just begun. Researchers in seven countries will take a

close look at government programs in support of small manufacturing enterprises, including financial and technical assistance, training and extension activities, and co-ordination among different agencies in the field.

In each country a minimum of 100 manufacturers — in sectors such as textiles, leather and wood products — will be asked about their experiences with government programs, as will the agencies concerned. The researchers will also look into the broader question of the place of small enterprises within national development programs. Care is being taken in this project to use common methodologies so that a comparative evaluation can be made at the end of the study.

Another project in the field of science and technology research that could have broad application is now under way in Mexico. Its aim is to pave the way for the rational development of technologies that will be of real benefit to poor rural communities. The problem of relating appropriate technology to rural development is a complex one. The Mexican project is a pilot study that will begin by examining past experience in the field, and defining criteria for measuring the success or failure of a particular innovation.

This Centre-supported project, which is an integral part of a larger study of the rural economy being carried out by Mexican researchers, should help to provide some guidelines for planners, not only in Mexico but also in other countries concerned with linking new forms of technology to the problems of rural development.

Alternative energy sources

Industry and technology, even on a modest scale, usually require some form of energy. There is little likelihood, however, that electricity can be made widely available in the rural areas of developing countries in the foreseeable future. The search for alternatives is complicated by the fact that surprisingly little is known about present or future energy supply and demand in rural areas. The Government of Fiji, for example, plans to introduce rural industry to the islands, but is hampered by an almost total lack of information about rural energy supply.

Now a research team from the University of the South Pacific, supported by an IDRC grant, is surveying rural communities in selected areas to determine the pre-

sent and future energy needs of the islands. As part of their project, the researchers will also study alternative energy sources, with special emphasis on the feasibility of biogas production using waste vegetable matter.

Water research

The question of water supply is a complex one. The installation of a pump or a well in a village does not guarantee that health conditions in the village will improve. Lakes created by large-scale irrigation dams can result in the spread of water-related diseases. And excessive irrigation can lead to the salination and waterlogging of irrigated areas, rendering them unfit for farming.

Water supply involves a whole range of disciplines — environment, health, hygiene, sanitation, appropriate technology, water management and use, education and training, and socio-political questions. It is in these areas that the IDRC is concentrating its research support.

The need for information and education is paramount if health is to be improved in rural areas. It has been observed that parasitic and infectious diseases persist in small rural communities, even where a supply of pure water is available. The problem is poor hygiene — water becomes contaminated when stored in unsanitary containers, and diseases are passed quickly from one family member to another if basic preventive measures are not taken.

In Guatemala a team of researchers supported by the IDRC is studying the domestic routine of families in such villages. They hope, by winning the confidence of the people to be able to isolate the cycle of contamination and infection — a cycle that subjects a staggering 96 per cent of the people in some areas to debilitating disease. If they succeed, their findings will enable other researchers to detect similar health-risk situations, and to develop programs of sanitary education tied to water use in the home that will break the cycle of disease.

Crop protection

Diseases and pests that affect staple crops can drastically reduce the food supply. Sorghum, grown by small farmers throughout the semi-arid tropics, is prey to the parasitic witchweeds of the *striga* family that can reduce the yield from a single sorghum crop by 50 per cent or

more, and eventually render the land unfit for sorghum cultivation. With IDRC support a new chemical treatment has been developed that may be able to destroy the hitherto indestructible weeds.

The root crop cassava is also a staple throughout much of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Almost since its inception, the IDRC has supported a growing network of cassava research, with the emphasis on increasing production at the small-farm level. Part of this effort is the search for an effective means of controlling the green spider mite, a tiny but extremely destructive pest that is particularly harmful to young cassava plants.

The rapid spread of information about recent research findings is vital to agricultural development, to enable scientists working in similar fields to co-ordinate their efforts, exchange ideas and avoid duplication of effort. The IDRC is already supporting the activities of specialized international agricultural information centres for cassava, grain legumes and farm irrigation, and during the past year approved a further grant to help establish a centre for information on sorghum and millet.

Special projects

The foregoing are just some of the activities of the International Development Centre during the period from April 1976 to March 1977. The Centre also continues to act as a managing agency for the Canadian International Development Agency in the handling of the triticale, cassava/swine and control of wildlife diseases (Kenya) projects. In addition, the Centre acts as the executing agency for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in the establishment of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas. Expenditures in support of these and other projects totalled \$2.805 million in the fiscal year.

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Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

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

News briefs

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau will join U.S. President Jimmy Carter and leaders of almost every Latin American country in Washington on September 7 for the signing of the new Panama Canal Treaties, at the invitation of the Organization of American States.

Canada has sharply increased its share of world wheat and flour trade at a time when the market has fallen significantly. In the 1976-77 crop year, which ended July 31, Canada's share of world wheat and flour trade was about 22 per cent, up from the 18 percent level at which it had hovered for three years. The Canadian Wheat Board has sold 62.5 million bushels of wheat to the Soviet Union for shipment next year from West Coast, Atlantic and St. Lawrence ports. The board does not disclose the value of export sales, but based on current Canadian export prices, the sale has an estimated value of approximately \$180 million.

Capital spending in Canada this year is expected to total \$46.27 billion, up 1.8 per cent from an earlier Statistics Canada estimate and up 10 per cent from the \$42.07 billion spent in 1976.

Despite rising unemployment between 1974 and 1976 some employers experienced difficulty in filling vacant positions, according to a survey published recently by the Manpower Department. Most of the shortages appeared in occupations offering low wages or demanding much skill and training. Sewing-machine operators, domestic maids, restaurant personnel, hairdressers, miners, loggers and diesel mechanics were all in demand during the period surveyed. The number of occupations suffering from a shortage of workers declined from 46 in 1974, to 30 in 1975 and 17 in 1976. The monthly total of occupational shortages, or openings that remain unfilled for 30 days or more, fell from 24,400 in 1974, to 15,700 in 1975 and 10,000 last year.

According to a United States survey, Canadian office workers are better paid, enjoy a shorter work week and benefit from a more generous holiday plan than their American counterparts. The Administration Management Society of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, also learned that 6.4 per cent of Canadian employers have unionized offices, while only 2.1 per cent of U.S. offices are fully represented by unions. In both countries, employers are

beginning to award three weeks of paid vacation after five years of service.

In recognition of a century-old treaty, about one million acres of Saskatchewan land are to be transferred to Indian hands. The recent agreement required more than two years of negotiations between the federal and provincial governments and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians.

Solange Chaput-Rolland and Gerald-A. Beaudoin have recently been appointed members from Quebec on the Task Force on Canadian Unity. Two members have been appointed from Quebec in recognition of the significance of that province's role in the national unity debate, and to assure the best possible representation in the consultations and hearings which the task force will undertake. The task force is prepared to support, encourage and publicize the efforts of the public — particularly of organizations — to enhance Canadian unity, to furnish the public with information about its own initiatives and views concerning Canadian unity, and to provide advice to the Government on unity issues. Mrs. Chaput-Rolland, author, is a member of the executive committee of the University of Montreal; Mr. Beaudoin, a Queen's Counsel, is Dean (Quebec Civil Law) at the University of Ottawa.

The Government will introduce legislation this fall to tighten controls over 100-150 corporations it owns, after a year of controversy about their operations. A key proposal would give Cabinet the power to overrule decisions of Crown corporations' boards of directors through written directives that would be made public. Auditor-General J.J. Macdonell said he was delighted with the federal response. He was particularly concerned last autumn about the operations of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, which paid out \$10.5 million in agents' fees for nuclear power station sales to South Korea and Argentina.

Hudson's Bay Co. has agreed to buy a 34.6 percent interest in Eaton Financial Services Ltd., a subsidiary of T. Eaton Co. Ltd.

The Federal Government has approved a proposal by Boots the Chemists Ltd. of England to acquire control of G. Tamblin Ltd., a Toronto-based drug store chain.