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Canada speaks out at United Nations refugee conference

Representatives of 72 nations attended a two-day conference on Indochinese refugees opened by Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim in Geneva, July 20.

Countries attending the conference included those directly involved, member nations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and those countries indicating a desire to assist in finding a practical solution to the problem of Indochinese refugees.

At the meeting, Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald gave a speech in which she urged other nations not to disregard the political aspects of the refugee question. The following is the text of the Minister's speech given July 20:

We are convened by tragedy. Though Canada welcomes this conference, indeed urged that it be held, we deplore the circumstances that have made it necessary.

I need not describe the plight of the hundreds of thousands of refugees from Southeast Asia who are suffering — even dying — at the very moment that we meet. Those facts are well known to everyone here. They are well known to the Canadian people as well, and Canadians have responded.

My country...has a tradition of welcoming refugees to its shores. Since World War II Canada has resettled more than 350,000 refugees from various parts

of the world — a significant number for a country with our size of population.

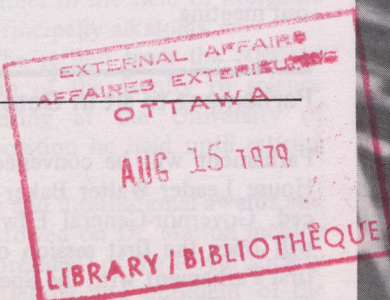
And Canadians continue to respond to the call of people in distress, specifically in regard to the Indochinese. From 1975 to the end of 1978, 9,000 refugees from that area came to Canada. Last December the Canadian Government announced that it would resettle 5,000 Indochinese in 1979. Recognizing the growing seriousness of the situation we increased that figure to 12,000 in June. At the Tokyo Summit my Prime Minister confirmed that we are prepared to do even more.

...My government recognizes that countries of first asylum must be encouraged



The first picture taken by a Western reporter of the refugee camp in Ubon near the Cambodian border. The camp houses Laotians, Vietnamese and Cambodians.

One-hundred-and-sixteen years ago today... Angus McAskill, the famous Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, giant died; he was 7 feet 9 inches and weighed more than 400 pounds.



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to continue to accept refugees fleeing the brutality in their own lands. Asylum countries must be assured that resettlement places are available in other parts of the world. Recognizing that such assurance is necessary, two days ago my government announced that it will accept up to 50,000 Indochinese from this year to the end of 1980. This means, in effect, that the countries of first asylum can count on Canada to accept up to 3,000 refugees a month. With this commitment we are trebling the rate of acceptance of these unfortunate people. We challenge other countries to follow this lead.

Delegates might be interested to know that the program we have introduced to fulfil this commitment is one of partnership between the Canadian Government and private citizens and organizations. The Government of Canada will sponsor one refugee for each refugee receiving private sponsorship. The response of our people has been immediate, and it has been strong. I have no doubt that we shall reach our objective.

The role of our provincial governments cannot be overlooked. It is they who provide many of the services on which refugees must rely during the resettlement period. We have consulted with them closely, and they have greeted our proposals with encouragement and support.

...It is through resettlement that Canada can make its major contribution to relief of the disaster in Southeast Asia. But we also recognize that contributions must be made to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Indochina program.

At this point, Canada wants to pay tribute to the High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the compassionate assistance they have been giving to the victims. We have great admiration for the devotion his organization has shown while working in the most trying circumstances. Without the protection and care that his people have provided, and without the arrangements they have made to resettle refugees, the misery would be both greater and more prolonged. We assure him of Canada's full support for his efforts.

In the past, we have made substantial financial contributions to the High Commissioner's efforts. Last December Canada doubled its annual contribution to \$2 million. In April, a special \$700,000 contribution was made to the Indochina program. I am pleased to be able to announce

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) will make about 3,000 housing units available to Southeast Asian refugees and their families, Elmer MacKay, Minister responsible for CMHC, has announced.

The housing units, which are of all types: high-rise, single detached and row, will be available at cost to sponsoring groups to provide temporary shelter for the refugees.

All the houses are either owned or administered by CMHC. In the Montreal area, there are 600 units in Montreal itself, 250 in Longueuil, and 150 in Laval. In the National Capital area, there are 60 units in Aylmer, Quebec, and another 40 in Gatineau, Quebec. In southern Ontario, there are 300 units in Toronto, 500 in Mississauga, 200 in Oshawa and 300 in Hamilton. Another 100 units are located in Vancouver and the remaining houses are scattered across the country in 18 communities.

The units are to be made available on an equal basis to both privately-sponsored refugees and those being supported by the Federal Government.

today that my government is making a further half million dollar contribution to this program. We recognize the need; we know the program; we are pleased the money will be so well spent.

By outlining the actions the Canadian Government and the Canadian people are taking, I hope...that I have established the seriousness with which my country views the current situation. We are prepared, we are willing — and indeed anxious — to make our best effort to alleviate the suffering inflicted on so many people by the actions of their own governments. We urge other countries to find the humanity in the souls of their nations to make similar efforts.

But alleviating the suffering is not solving the problem. To lower the fever is not to eradicate the infection. It is the cause of the problem we must address. We must identify the reason for this crisis and deal with it.

It is agreed that we are here to treat the crisis from a humanitarian point of view. But let us be clear about the meaning of humanitarian. One cannot arbitrarily separate out aspects of the problem such as first asylum or resettlement and term them humanitarian, and then

dismiss the root causes of the exodus as political. It is no less political to urge countries to maintain a generous first asylum policy, or to provide financing for the care of refugees, than it is to urge the countries of exodus to abandon the policies causing the outflow and the practices that abet it. It is no less humanitarian to demand, as Canada does, that they deal with their citizens without discrimination and in a humane manner. It is our humanity that cries out for an end to this flagrant, this continuing, this outrageous violation of human rights.

...We have examined with care the High Commissioner's Note of July 9 and find ourselves in broad agreement with his analysis of the situation and with his suggested plan of action. We believe it is particularly important to emphasize the inter-related nature of steps to be taken. One aspect of the solution cannot be separated from the other. The plan will be ineffectual if the countries of exodus: Viet-Nam, Kampuchea and Laos, do not accept their responsibilities. The international community holds them responsible for the fate of all their citizens. Certainly their citizens must be able to exercise the fundamental human right to leave their homeland if they so wish. Canada has repeatedly stressed the obligation of all countries to honour this basic right.

But the governments of the exodus have the paramount responsibility to ensure that departures of their citizens take place in a safe and orderly manner, and without threat or penalty of any kind. The international community rejects as an unconscionable violation of human rights the attempt to expel or otherwise eliminate any ethnic community or any socio-economic group. Only if the countries of origin respond to these humane and just demands will it be possible for the problem to be solved rather than the symptoms merely alleviated. This must be fully emphasized in the summing up of our meeting.

Parliament to sit in October

Parliament will be convened October 9, House Leader Walter Baker has announced. Governor-General Edward Schreyer will open the first session of the thirty-first Parliament with the Speech from the Throne. The last Parliament ended March 26, when former prime minister Pierre Trudeau called a general election.

Canadian delegation attends Law of the Sea conference

A Canadian delegation, lead by the Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald, is attending the eighth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, which resumed July 19 and continues to August 24.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General Jacques Flynn and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans James McGrath are alternate heads of the delegation; High Commissioner J. Alan Beesley is deputy head of the delegation.

This session, following up on the Geneva conference this spring, is focusing primarily on the unresolved issues relating to the establishment of an international system for the exploitation of deep sea-bed resources. Negotiations are also expected to take place on the question of revenue sharing concerning the resources of the continental margin beyond 200 miles, the delimitation of maritime boundaries between adjacent or opposite states, marine scientific research, settlement of disputes and the preamble and final clauses of the future Convention on the Law of the Sea.

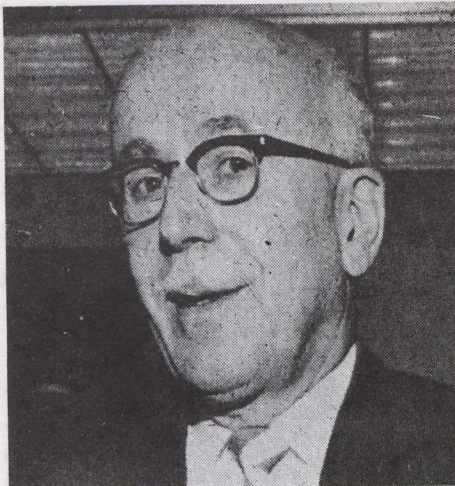
Noted scientist dies

Dr. Leo Marion, an internationally-known scientist and former dean of science and engineering at the University of Ottawa, died recently at the age of 80.

Born in Ottawa, Dr. Marion studied at Queen's and McGill universities before joining the National Research Council (NRC) in 1929 as a staff member of the *Canadian Journal of Research*. The following year he joined the chemistry section as a research chemist, beginning an illustrious career in the field of inorganic chemistry, principally alkaloids.

In 1965 he retired from the NRC to become dean of the faculty of science and engineering at the University of Ottawa, a position he held until retiring in 1969.

Canadian and international awards and honours bestowed on Dr. Marion include fellow and president of the Royal Society of Canada, fellow and president of the Chemical Institute of Canada, president of l'Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences. He was also a



Dr. Leo Marion

fellow of the Royal Society of London and an honorary member of the Société chimique de France.

A recipient of the Jecker Prize from the Paris Academy of Sciences, he held honorary doctorates from 13 Canadian universities and from the University of Paris at the Sorbonne.

His other honours included the Parisseau Medal, the Chemical Institute of Canada Medal, the Gold Medal of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada and the Medal of the City of Paris.

Marion published more than 200 scientific papers and contributed six chapters to the seven-volume edition of *The Alkaloids*, published by Academic Press of New York.

Canada/China student program

An agreement furthering educational exchanges between Canada and China was signed recently in Peking, the Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald has announced.

The agreement completes intensive discussions initiated in August 1978 with China, which expressed interest in sending a considerable number of students in scientific and technological fields to this country. It is part of a world-wide Chinese program to send students overseas.

A main feature of the agreement is a special program to place some 100 Chinese scholars in Canadian institutions in 1979. The Canadian Council of Ministers of Education, in conjunction with provincial education authorities and other provincial or federal agencies, and the National Research Council will

assist in placement, language evaluation orientation and liaison with the academic community.

The Chinese government will be responsible for the accommodation, living, travel, books and equipment, health insurance and supplementary language training costs, as well as for educational costs. Chinese authorities will also assume direct research costs except where other arrangements have been made.

Under the agreement, Chinese undergraduates and postgraduates could attend Canadian institutions under other arrangements acceptable to both countries.

The Chinese government has also agreed to increase accessibility for Canadian scholars and students to its institutions by facilitating travel in China and allowing access to research materials and attendance at regular courses.

Investment agreement signed

An agreement to foster trade and investment between Canada and Cameroun was signed recently.

The agreement, signed by Canada's Ambassador to Cameroun Gilles Duguay, and Cameroun's Foreign Minister Jean Keutcha, facilitates insurance of investments under the Export Development Corporation's investment guarantee program. The program insures Canadian investors against loss of their overseas investments because of political actions in the host country. Increased trade and benefits for both countries are expected to result from this agreement, because it is designed to further Canadian investor confidence in Cameroun.

Cameroun joins the African nations of Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Morocco, Malawi, Rwanda, and Senegal, which have signed similar agreements.

Nicaraguan government recognized

Canada recognized the new government of Nicaragua, July 25. The Secretary of State for External Affairs Flora MacDonald, in making the announcement, said she hoped that Canada would develop fruitful and mutually profitable relations with the new government. The Canadian government is to make a request for accreditation of a new Canadian ambassador to Nicaragua soon, said the Minister.

Canada/U.S. currency exchange

The Ontario government recently opened fair currency exchange services at five Ontario Travel information centres along the Canada-U.S. border.

Currency exchange, which was tested in August and September 1978, is intended to accommodate American travellers vacationing in the province.

The five travel information centres involved are located in Niagara Falls, Windsor (both at the tunnel and the Ambassador Bridge leading from Detroit), Sault Ste. Marie and Hill Island (servicing the Thousand Islands Bridge).

The program will operate on a year-round basis at the travel centres, with the exception of the Ambassador Bridge and Hill Island facilities which are open on a seasonal basis only between May and October.

The world's first border airport

History was made as Manitoba Premier Sterling Lyon and Minnesota Governor Al Quie officially opened the only airstrip in the world running between two countries.

The idea originated seven years ago when the state government decided the airport runway at Pinecreek, Minnesota, had to be extended to 1,000 metres for safe night flying.

The only possible direction to lengthen the grass strip was north, across the border to a point about 10 kilometres south of Piney, Manitoba.

The local Piney district council finally purchased the land for the extension last summer with a \$4,000 provincial grant. Manitoba spent more than \$10,000 on the project and the United States is paying about \$22,000 for its share of the work.

The airport now is operated by a commission composed of three Manitobans and three Minnesotans.

The Pinecreek airstrip was built in 1953 to allow hunting and fishing parties flying to and from northern Manitoba to clear U.S. and Canadian customs conveniently.

The opening ceremonies for the new airport included a fly-past by an air squadron from the Minnesota National Guard and a demonstration of precision manoeuvres by the Dragonflies, a Canadian Forces helicopter team.

Canadian milk program studied

A Canadian government-supported skim milk powder aid program, operated by nine Canadian non-governmental organizations, is making a significant impact on malnutrition in Third World countries, but needs to be planned and "targetted" much more carefully in future, according to a study by a non-profit Canadian research organization.

The study, prepared by the North-South Institute, is entitled *Handle with Care* and is based on six months of research, field inspections in five countries (Bangladesh, Haiti, Honduras, India and St. Vincent, West Indies) and questionnaire responses from 11 other countries.

The evaluation was commissioned by the organizations supporting the aid program together with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The skim milk powder program, now costing \$2 million annually, represents only a small fraction of Canada's food aid expenditures.

Canadian agencies and their partner-groups overseas monitored the program unusually closely and very little of the Canadian milk seemed to be diverted to less needy groups, to be re-sold or wasted, says the study.

The report points out that like other food aid schemes, the program raises difficult questions about the relationship between humanitarian aid, surplus disposal, and promoting "self-reliant" development in poor countries.

The study also examines whether the program has contributed to the "bottle baby" problem of declining breast-feeding in the Third World. It has been suggested that milk powder aid programs can, at least indirectly, aggravate the widespread problems arising from commercial infant formulas in poor countries.

While warning of the potential dangers, the North-South Institute researchers say, "Small but growing evidence was encountered during this study of the problem of bottle feeding, but it did not seem to be evidently encouraged by the availability of NGO (non-governmental organizations) skim milk powder. In general, among rural and even urban populations affected by this program, breast-feeding appears still to be extremely well established, frequently up to the age of two years."

However, the Institute says, the program must guard against dependencies on

such imported foods by groups to whom it is not essential. The study suggests that the program should be carefully monitored to ensure that the milk continues to reach the highest priority groups, such as pre-school age children, pregnant and lactating women and those recuperating from illnesses.

In addition, the study proposes a number of recommendations designed to improve the aid program. They include:

there should be special efforts by CIDA and non-governmental organizations to link local food development schemes to skim milk powder distribution;

simple, but standardized, reporting systems should be used by all participants to help determine year-to-year allocations and monitor effectiveness on a continuing basis;

the scheme would benefit from being held at about the present level with goals more closely defined and pursued;

methods should be implemented through which damage and loss of goods due to poor packaging might be avoided;

small additional grants to the participating non-governmental organizations would help defray shipping and handling costs within recipient countries;

for a variety of reasons, other food products should not be included in this program until the experience with milk is more fully planned and tested.

Copies of *Handle With Care* may be ordered directly from the North-South Institute, 185 Rideau Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1N 5X8.

Athletes place third at Games

Canada placed third behind the United States and Cuba at the Pan-American Games held recently in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Canada sent a contingent of almost 450 athletes to the Games in which 33 nations participated. The Canadian team claimed a total of 137 medals consisting of 24 gold, 42 silver and 71 bronze. The U.S. team topped the medals standings with 264, followed by Cuba with 146. Canada's overall medal standing was up from the 1975 total of 94 (19-35-40) won at the Pan-American Games in Mexico City.

Guy Lorion of Longueuil, Quebec, won the first Canadian gold medal of the Games earning a total of 384 points out of 400 to take the air rifle event. The

Canadian free pistol team also won a gold by defeating the Cuban team 2,138 points to 2,134. The shooting medals were the first won by Canadian athletes in Pan-Am competition in 12 years.

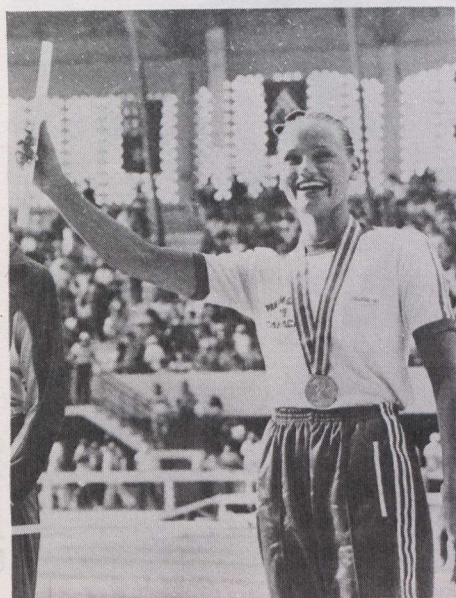
Canadian athletes won three of the six cycling events including a double victory by Gord Singleton of Niagara Falls, Ontario, who won gold medals in the 1,000 metres and 1 km time trial. Claude Langlois of Montreal also won a gold medal in the 4,000 metre individual pursuit.

In synchronized swimming, Helen Vanderburg of Calgary, the 1978 world's champion, won the solo event and then teamed with Kelly Kryczka, also of Calgary, to win a gold in the duet event. The two joined the Calgary Aquabelles to take the silver medal losing narrowly to the United States in the team competition. The two golds were the first for Canada since the sport was introduced to the Pan-American Games in 1955.

Diane Jones-Konihowski from Edmonton, took the first gold in the track-and-field competition with an easy victory in the pentathlon. The 28-year-old scored 4,605 points to beat the silver medallist, American Jodi Anderson. Scott Neilson of New Westminster, British Columbia, placed first in the hammer throw to win a gold medal.

In Greco-Roman wrestling, Howard Stupp of Laval, Quebec, and Doug Yeats of Montreal, won gold medals in their respective lightweight and featherweight categories.

The women's gymnastics team headed



Helen Vanderburg is pleased with her double gold win in synchronized swimming.



Claude Langlois, gold medallist in the individual pursuit in cycling.

by triple gold medallist Monica Goermann of Winnipeg, won four of its six events to take the team gold. Sherry Hawco of Cambridge, also won an individual gold in the balance beam event.

The Canadian rowing team triumphed with golds in the double sculls (Bruce Ford and Pat Walder, Victoria), and coxless pairs (Brian Dick and Tim Storm, St. Catharines). Brad Farrow of Delta, British Columbia, and Louis Jani of Montreal, also added golds to the Canadian medals standing with wins in the judo championships.

In swimming, the Canadian team finished second behind the Americans with 28 medals. The only gold was won by Anne Gagnon of Beauport, Quebec, who set a Games record in the 200-metre breast stroke with a time of 2:40.82.

The Canadian men's softball team upset the U.S. team in the final to take the gold medal. In addition, Terry Hadlow of Elliot Lake, Ontario won a gold in weightlifting in the light-heavyweight class.

Pole vaulter Bruce Simpson and Laser-class yachtsman Terry Neilson of Toronto captured the last two Canadian gold medals both in events no Canadian had won at any previous Games. Canadian yachtsmen claimed four medals in five classes, including a bronze in the Soling event. It was the first time Canada had won more than two yachting medals in a single Games. Canadian bronzes in men's volleyball and women's basketball were the first ever won in Pan-American competition.

Ontario Premier to visit Europe for trade discussions

Ontario Premier William Davis will visit Europe this September to explore increased trade opportunities. The two-week trip will take Mr. Davis to Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece and England.

Mr. Davis, will leave September 15 for Belgium, where he will meet with Roy Jenkins, president of the European Economic Community, and other EEC officials. The talks will be on trade and tariffs negotiations, Candu reactor sales and the general energy situation.

During his four days in Belgium, the premier will lunch privately with King Baudouin and will address the Antwerp Chamber of Commerce.

During three days in the Netherlands, Mr. Davis and his Industry and Tourism Minister Larry Grossman will meet Dutch business and government leaders, and the premier will speak to the Chamber of Commerce in Rotterdam.

Mr. Davis will also visit Greece where he will meet government officials, church leaders and members of the business community, and will speak to the Greek-Canadian Association.

In London, Mr. Davis again will speak with government officials and members of the investment community. He will address the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber.

Rare books secured by library

The National Library of Canada recently purchased about 1,200 rare books on a wide range of topics: early voyages and travels, fur trade and fisheries, immigration, agriculture, economics, and social and political history. Dates of publication range from the sixteenth to the twentieth century.

Many are early titles published in Canada, including Sagard's *Histoire du Canada* (1636), eight original *Jesuit Relations* which date from the seventeenth century, Ogilby's *America* (1671), several early editions of the voyages of Captains Cook and Vancouver and Laudonnière's *l'Histoire notable de la Floride* (1586).

The collection complements that of the Canadian manuscripts recently acquired by the Public Archives of Canada from the same source, Dr. Lawrence Lande of Montreal.

Portable facility aids gas industry

A portable sulphur processing plant designed by a Calgary company might be the answer to a persistent problem facing the natural gas industry.

Sulphur, a by-product of gas processing, is difficult to transport and the quantities produced at small, scattered gas plants are insufficient to justify construction of a full-scale processing plant.

The portable plant, designed by the sulphur division of Procor Limited, can turn 400 tons of sulphur daily into easily transported granulated pellets.

Procor has a prototype plant operating near Calgary, and sales engineer Duncan McRae said he expects to have six to 10 similar plants operating in Western Canada within a few years.

"There are a number of sour gas plants (processing high-sulphur gas) scattered around western Canada which simply don't have the sulphur volumes to justify the capital expenditure required to build a permanent processing installation.

"But with the very strong market demand for sulphur right now, everyone has been looking for an economical way to get some of these stocks to market," said Mr. McRae.

The modular plants, which he said will be used to process sulphur on a contract basis for gas plant clients, cost about \$750,000 to build. They can be easily dismantled and moved to a new site when a sulphur stock is depleted.

Each unit might be moved two or three times, making it an economical alternative to full-scale plants, said Mr. McRae.

Two units have already been sold to South Africa.

NRC produces Commonwealth Games film

A highly visible yet rather unheard-of event was captured on film by a National Research Council (NRC) research team at the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton.

Six researchers and photographers recorded the athletic and gymnastic performance of spectators climbing long aisle stairs in the new Commonwealth Stadium.

The study of spectators' performance in what has become known as the "stair event" was part of a major project begun ten years ago by the NRC to improve

knowledge of people movement in buildings. Aisle handrails, an unusual but very heavily used feature of aisles stairs, received special attention in the study. Of particular interest was the use by adults and children of test pairs of handrails that could be adjusted in height.

A 19-minute film, titled *The Stair Event*, has recently been produced by the Council presenting early findings. As well as demonstrating the importance of several stair design factors, including handrails, the film shows that the "stair event" has a broad range of participants including children, the elderly, handicapped people and vendors.

Awards were not given for climbing the equivalent of eight storeys of stairs in each stadium aisle, but if they were, perhaps the vendors carrying heavy cases of soda pop all day long would be gold medal contenders.

The short documentary film, illustrating research techniques and describing findings on stair design and use factors affecting comfort and safety, is one of the legacies of the Edmonton Commonwealth Games. The film is being made available by the NRC to educational institutions and research centres as well as other interested groups.

Experts check Niagara Falls

The Canadian side of Niagara Falls received a clean bill of health recently, at the same time, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stepped up their geological testing on the American side of the Horseshoe Falls.

Ronald Hoskins, of the Buffalo corps, said seismic sensors, set to detect as little as one-eighth of an inch of movement in the rock at Terrapin Point, are being read daily to determine any irregularities.

Army engineers worked to install and repair testing equipment after sensors installed in 1971, and virtually abandoned, were found to be corroded.

Scientists at first thought a sensor, which sounded the alarm recently indicating that the rock had shifted one-quarter inch, might have been faulty.

Canadian geologists checked rock water pressure sensing devices installed at the brink of the falls on the Canadian side and found normal readings, said Ron Devereux, of the Niagara Parks Commission.

He said the Canadian geologists believe that if there is a rock fall on the U.S. side, most of it will fall on land and not into the water.

Youngest pilot in Canada



Debbie Skaer, 17, of Thornton, Ontario, poses with a plane after obtaining her pilot's licence recently in a special ceremony at Barrie airport. Miss Skaer, the youngest pilot in Canada, would like to become a commercial airline pilot.

Films international festival winners

Five Canadian films won acclaim recently at international festivals in Bulgaria and Prague.

Canadian films won awards in four out of eight health categories at the Varna International Film Festival in Bulgaria.

John Kastner's CBC television documentary *Four Women* — a moving account of how four women faced the trauma of breast cancer surgery — won the Varna Grand Prize for television features at the festival for Red Cross and health films.

Montreal director Robin Spry won the Best Direction Award for the National Film Board TV film *One Man*, while other NFB films, *Water — A Hazardous Necessity* and *I'll Find A Way* won silver medals in their respective environment and health categories.

Water — A Hazardous Necessity was filmed in Africa and directed by Tina Viljoen. Academy Award-winning *I'll Find A Way* was produced by filmmaker Beverley Shaffer.

In Prague, a film produced by the Canadian Television network (CTV) won the award for the best TV interpretation of a concert work at the international television festival.

The film won the award on the strength of using Igor Stravinsky's ballet score *The Rite of Spring* as its background music.

Canada Council Molson Prizes

The 1978 Canada Council Molson Prizes have been awarded to Betty Oliphant of Toronto, director and principal of the National Ballet School, Michael Snow of Toronto, artist, and Jean Duceppe of Montreal, actor and theatre director.

The prizes, each worth \$20,000 are funded by the Molson Foundation and have been awarded annually since 1963 to recognize outstanding contributions to the arts, humanities or social sciences.

Miss Oliphant was appointed ballet mistress of the newly-formed National Ballet of Canada in 1951 and, in 1959, established the National Ballet School, the first of its kind in North America.

Michael Snow is internationally known for his work in film-making, painting, sculpture, photography and music. His

one-man exhibitions have been shown at museums and galleries in Canada and abroad. *Wavelength*, his best-known film, won first prize at the Fourth International Experimental Film Competition at Knocke, Belgium, in 1967.

A veteran of television and theatre, Jean Duceppe has acted in plays with the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde and the Théâtre du Rideau Vert. He won the Canadian Film Festival's best actor award for his interpretation of the title role in *Mon Oncle Antoine*.

Children's theatre delights Russian and Swiss audiences

The Montreal-based national theatre for children — Les Pissenlits — recently completed a successful three-week tour of the USSR and one week of performances in Switzerland.



Les Pissenlits in a scene from Gulliver.

In the Soviet Union, Les Pissenlits gave 16 performances of *Gulliver*, an adaptation in French of Jonathan Swift's famous story, to sold-out houses. Children and adults participated through sing-alongs and dialogue because René Lemieux, who played the role of Gulliver, had learned to deliver essential lines in Russian.

The company was praised by Soviet and Swiss audiences and critics. Official tribute was paid to the company by the Soviet Bureau of the International Association of Theatres for Children and Youth. Also, the Congress of Soviet Theatre Directors, which was meeting in Moscow and attended a performance, said

it hoped Les Pissenlits would perform again in the USSR.

The Soviet news agency TASS reported that, "Soviet spectators everywhere warmly received the play *Gulliver* and the art of the Canadian friends aroused a lively interest among children and adult spectators. Very interesting were the acting and the way the play was produced".

During their three weeks in the USSR, the company met with Soviet actors, technicians and directors and visited children's theatres, museums, and music, fine arts and theatre art studios. Jean-Yves Gaudreault, said he was impressed with the instruction available to Soviet children in the performing arts.

In Geneva, le Théâtre des Pissenlits opened the International Festival of Children's Theatre. One thousand people crowded into the 400-seat auditorium. Later the company gave three other performances for school children.

Arts briefs

Rudi van Dantzig, artistic director of the Dutch National Ballet, has offered positions in his company to Alan Land, Jane Lord and Lindsay Fisher from the National Ballet School, following the school's conference in Toronto in late February. The dancers will be going to the Netherlands next season.

Canadian films sold at the Cannes Film Festival this year totalled \$22 million, a 1,100 percent increase over the previous year, the Canadian Film Development Corporation's executive director Michael McCabe said recently.

The Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, will mark its fifteenth anniversary this summer with displays illustrating the history of Canada's national memorial to the Fathers of Confederation. Costumes from the Charlottetown festival's biggest hit musicals, set models, props, design illustrations and production photographs will all be a part of the interior displays. Former prime minister, John Diefenbaker, will be the guest speaker at the fifteenth annual dinner meeting of the Fathers of Confederation Buildings Trust. Other special activities will emphasize the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary of the first meeting of the Fathers of Confederation, at Province House, Prince Edward Island.

Women widen gap in life expectancy over men

Canadians on the average are living longer but women are continuing to widen their edge in life expectancy over men, according to new mortality figures by Statistics Canada.

The tables show that female life spans have risen by more than a year to 77.48 years, up from 76.36 years from the previous tables. The rise in male life spans is less than a year, to 70.19 years, compared with 69.34 years.

The tables are based on the population enumerated in the 1976 census and deaths occurring from 1975 to 1977, inclusive. Previously, the most recent tables available were based on deaths during the years 1970 to 1972 and related to the 1971 census.

The new mortality rates show a trend towards improvement at all ages, except for males in their late teens and early twenties. High accidental death rates from age 15 to 25 account for the rise in the male mortality curve. Because the number of deaths from natural causes tends to be lower in these years, the increase becomes more noticeable.

Comparing life expectancies and mortality rates between provinces indicates that the general range of variations existing in previous years continues with Saskatchewan showing the most favourable life spans at 78.64 years for females and 71.13 years for males. Quebec has the least favourable at 76.52 years for females and 69.06 years for males.

Life expectancies at different ages for males, with females in brackets are: age 10, 61.57 years (68.71); age 20, 52.09 (58.95); age 30, 42.96 (49.25); age 40, 33.59 (39.67); age 50, 24.86 (30.51); age 60, 17.23 (21.96); age 70, 11.05 (14.33); and age 80, 6.44 (8.15).

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

News briefs

Joseph Morris, Canadian Labour Congress president from 1974-1978 and the first trade unionist ever elected chairman of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (ILO) in 1977, has been re-elected to the post of workers' vice-chairman of the ILO, headquartered in Geneva.

CAE Industries Limited of Toronto will produce the aluminum cylinder heads and manifolds for the Erika, the new world car to be introduced by Ford Motor Co. in North America in the fall of 1980. Production of the components by a subsidiary, CAE-Montupet Diecast Ltd. of St. Catharines, will also mark the introduction of a new process for casting aluminum in North America. The process permits the casting of highly intricate light-weight products for the auto industry.

Newfoundland Premier Brian Peckford has named two women as the province's first female ministers in a recent post-election cabinet shuffle. Lynne Verge takes over the education portfolio and Hazel Newhook, the former mayor of Gander, becomes minister of consumer affairs and the environment.

The Montreal police force has sworn in its first woman officer in 32 years. Constable Christiane Forcier, 22, joined the Montreal Urban Community (MUC) police this week as a full patrolling officer. Four other women will be among the next batch of 20 recruits to be sworn in. The force is trying to catch up with a continent-wide trend that has seen women make inroads into virtually every aspect of police work, says an MUC official.

With 18 billion local telephone calls and more than a billion long distance calls in 1977, Canada has retained its reputation as one of the most talkative countries in the world, a spokesman for the Trans-Canada Telephone System said recently. A report by American Telegraph and Telephone surveying 230 countries also shows that in 1978 Canada ranked fourth in the number of telephones *per capita* — 63 phones for every 100 Canadians. Only Switzerland, Sweden and the United States had higher phone densities.

Bridge and Tank Co. of Canada Limited will participate in a \$17-million contract to erect the steel for a bridge to span the Mississippi River, north of

New Orleans, Louisiana. It is a joint venture with Melbourne Brothers Co. of Ohio. The two steel erection firms obtained a \$4-million crane barge to undertake the construction. The entire highway bridge project will cost \$135-million when completed in 1981. Officials at Hamilton-based Bridge and Tank expect construction to begin this month.

Esso Resources Canada Ltd., a subsidiary of Imperial Oil Ltd., plans to spend \$5-million in the next five years searching for uranium in northwestern Manitoba. An Imperial Oil spokesman said Esso Resources will soon sign an exploration agreement with Mid North Uranium Ltd. of The Pas, Manitoba, and Winnipeg, owners of a 32,000-acre claim where test drilling has revealed uranium ore. Esso Resources will have the option at the end of five years to retain a 60 per cent working interest in the property, he said.

The Royal Bank of Canada plans to move most of its U.S. operations to New York from Montreal within the next few months to strengthen its position south of the border, a bank spokesman has announced. About 10 executives in the bank's U.S. division, ranging from vice-president to support staff, will be affected by the move, which is part of a decentralization program that has been underway at the bank for several years, says the spokesman.

Senator Claude Wagner, who ran for the federal Progressive Conservative party leadership in 1975 losing by a narrow margin to Joe Clark, died recently at the age of 54. Born in Shawinigan, Quebec, Mr. Wagner studied at Ottawa University and at McGill University in Montreal. Mr. Wagner joined the Conservative party in 1972 and was appointed to the Senate last year.

A pair of Australians proved recently that their countrymen still rule the waves — at least those that can be conquered in a floating bathtub. While hundreds at Kitsilano Beach, British Columbia, cheered the 62 finishers who made it across the 55-kilometre-wide Georgia Strait in the thirteenth annual Nanaimo-to-Vancouver tub race, Gary Deathridge of Australia retained his world championship with a record run. Close behind was fellow Australian David Bonnici, who ran his tub into the beach four-and-a-half minutes ahead of Larry Weisse of Vancouver.