

The Prince George Citizen

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Taxpayers pick up Mila's \$104,000 travel tab

TORONTO (CP) — It cost taxpayers \$104,000 to fly Mila Mulroney and Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard home from the francophone summit in Dakar, Senegal, last May, federal documents show.

The two, along with three members of the prime minister's office and Mila's RCMP bodyguard, flew aboard a government Challenger executive jet that was sent to Africa as a

backup plane for Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, the Toronto Star reported today in a dispatch from Ottawa.

The prime minister was travelling aboard an Armed Forces Boeing 707 to the summit and then on to a NATO meeting in Europe.

Documents obtained by the Star under the Access to Information Act show the Armed Forces Challenger C-144 logged

20.9 hours flying time at a cost of \$5,000 an hour on its return Dakar-Ottawa trip.

The Challenger left Ottawa without passengers on May 22, the same day the prime minister left on the Boeing 707. The Challenger returned May 27 when the prime minister left Dakar to go to Brussels.

During his first term in office, the prime minister aban-

doned the practice of having a backup plane follow him on official trips after criticism of the high costs involved.

But a spokesman for the Defence Department said this week the second plane was needed on this trip because of the "unusual circumstances" of travelling in Africa and that Mulroney does not, as a matter of course, have a second plane follow him.

On Friday, the Star reported that federal documents also show a high use of the armed forces' fleet of eight Challenger aircraft for travel to and from cabinet ministers' ridings, especially on weekends.

Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski took a Challenger to come back from the West on two successive Mondays in June. In one case he was accompanied by Grains and

Oilseeds Minister Charles Meyer, and three officials, and in the other, by a special assistant from his office.

The two trips cost \$84,500. And during the NATO summit in Brussels in May, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark had a Challenger standing by to take him and his officials to Paris, Madrid, back to Paris and then back to Brussels at a cost of \$112,000.

Summit urges aid to Poland

PARIS (CP) — Leaders of the seven major non-Communist industrial countries pledged today to help sustain the moves toward democracy in Poland and Hungary, and condemned China for its brutal suppression of pro-reform protesters.

"We urge the Chinese authorities to cease action against those who have done no more than claim their legitimate rights to democracy and liberty," said a declaration on political issues issued at the mid-point of the seven-country summit.

Canada, along with the United States, Japan, Britain, France, West Germany and Italy are attending the summit which began Friday as Parisians watched a spectacular parade to mark the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

At the urging of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the document was amended by the leaders to emphasize the "urgent need for food" assistance for Poland, where shortages are rampant.

The summit leaders, including Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, agreed to an emergency infusion of food by sending surpluses to Poland.

Canadians officials told reporters that representatives of the European Community will meet Polish officials in the next few weeks to set up a food transfer program.

Canada has no surplus food

stocks because of last summer's drought in the prairies but Ottawa may buy food to ship to Poland, the officials said.

The summit declaration called for a meeting of "all interested countries" within the coming weeks to discuss ways to encourage reforms in both Poland and Hungary.

There were few specific aid commitments, although the seven leaders promised to consider and coordinate economic assistance "aimed at transforming and opening" the economies of Poland and Hungary and "to sustain the momentum of reform."

The leaders reaffirmed their support for easing Poland's foreign debt burden — amounting to the equivalent of about \$47 billion Cdn — by relaxing its payment schedule. White House chief of staff John Sununu said this could provide Poland with \$6 billion in relief.

The communique also urged the International Monetary Fund to speed up consideration of new loans for Poland.

The leaders met today to discuss economic problems and environmental issues atop the Grand Arch, a 35-storey avant-garde cubic structure of glass and marble.

On China, the political communique urged the World Bank to postpone new loans to Beijing and summit leaders all promised to shelter Chinese students who did not want to go home.

On East-West relations, the draft statement quoted the leaders as saying they hoped that "freedom will be broadened and democracy strengthened" in Eastern Europe.

They welcomed political and economic reforms taking place in Poland and Hungary but said "others are still endeavoring to resist this movement by taking repressive measures which we strongly condemn."

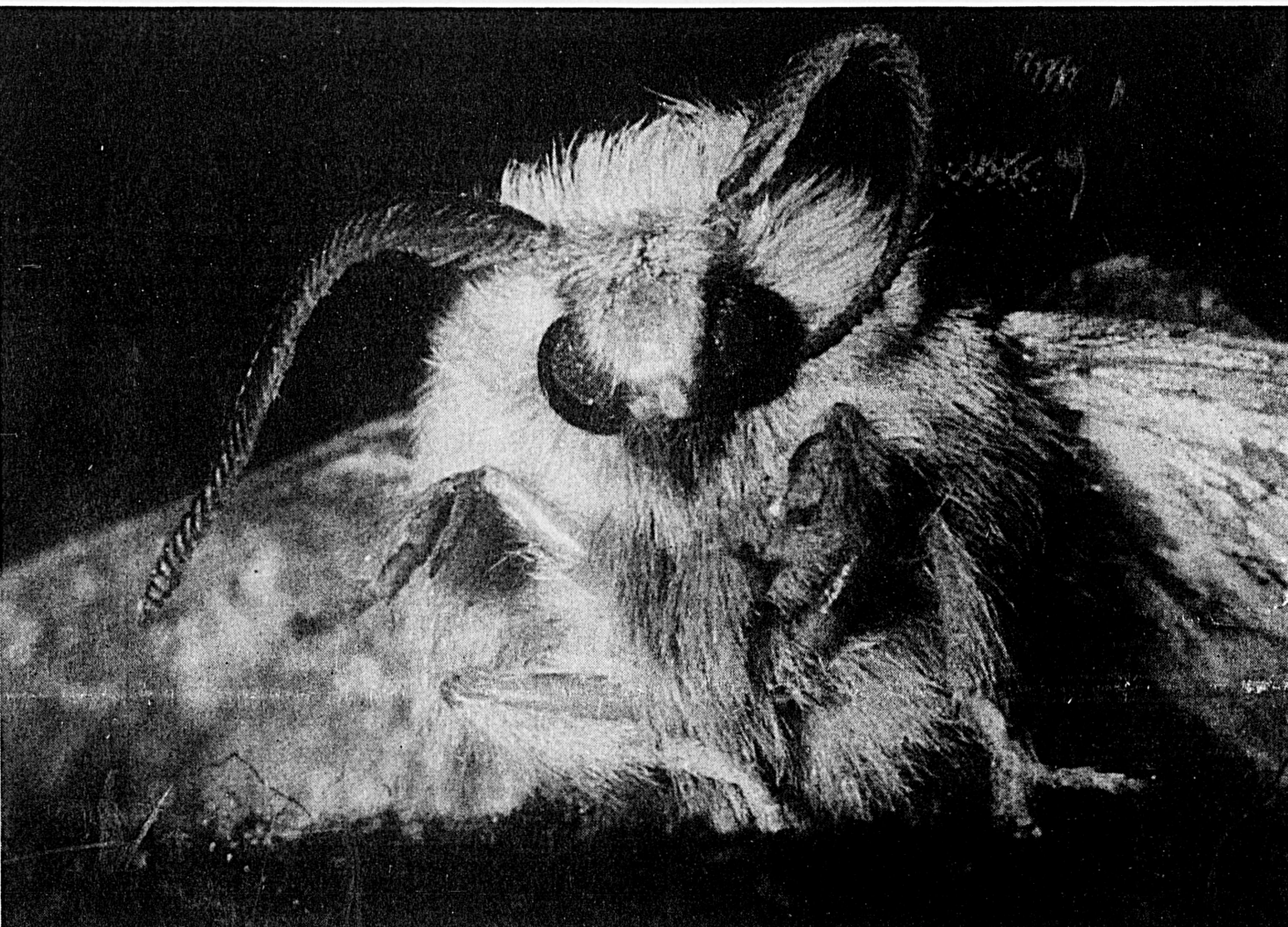
The leaders named no governments but political analysts said they were clearly referring to Czechoslovakia and Romania, widely condemned in the West for their treatment of dissenters and ethnic minorities.

They called on the Soviet Union to put promises of arms cuts into action at home and abroad.

"Military imbalances favoring the Soviet Union, both in Europe and in Asia, remain a threat to each of us," they said.

The leaders promised economic assistance to Hungary and Poland to bolster efforts towards political and economic reforms.

They also issued a strong condemnation of state-sponsored terrorism and called for universal observance of fundamental human rights.



It's one of them

The closeup shot of a tent caterpillar moth looks like he could be The Beast Who Ate Prince George, and a look at the aspen trees in this area, maybe that isn't that far from the truth. This photo, by amateur photographer Dylan

Cole, is of one of the thousands of little beasts that have invaded the city and surrounding area to lay eggs which will hatch to produce next year's caterpillars which denude leafed trees.

IT'S JAIL, JUDGE SAYS

Abortion warning issued

VANCOUVER (CP) — Seven anti-abortion protesters received jail sentences Friday for blocking access to a private abortion clinic in defiance of a B.C. Supreme Court injunction.

All but one were first-time offenders in a continuing campaign by anti-abortionists against the southeastern Vancouver clinic. The other had been arrested in two previous blockades and had served a jail term for criminal contempt of court.

Supreme Court Justice John Bouck said that, from now on, protesters who defy the injunction can expect to go to jail. Previously, judges had handed first offenders suspended sentences.

Bouck said the continued defiance of the court would lead to anarchy. However, he did offer to suspend portions of each sentence if the protesters sign promises to stay away from the Everywoman's Health Centre.

Paul Jackson, 34, of Fruitvale, B.C., who chained himself to a concrete block and to another protester outside the clinic with two heavy-duty bicycle locks July 4, was sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$1,500.

Bouck ordered four months of the sentence and the fine suspended if Jackson, who works for Cominco in Trail, agrees to stay away from the clinic for two years after his release from jail.

Rebecca Ott, 34, Deanna Kondrat, 21, both of Vernon, and Lucille Burke, 33, of Kelowna, were sentenced to five months and fined \$1,000 each for participating in the same blockade. The fine and all but a month of the prison terms were suspended on condition the women stay away from the clinic for two years.

A 15-year-old Vancouver Island girl received two years' probation. Bouck said she must be treated

differently but "it is sad to see adults allowing her to participate in this confrontation."

All were convicted of criminal contempt.

Later, Bouck sentenced James Hanson, 23, of Langley to a six-month prison term for his third violation of the injunction stemming from a blockade last Tuesday. But the judge said he would suspend three months of the house painter's term if he signs a promise not to go within two blocks of the clinic for two years. Hanson was also fined \$1,500.

First-time offenders Nancy Van Aert, 21, of Cloverdale, and Teresa Van Tunen, 24, of Fort Langley, were sentenced to five months in prison and fined \$1,000. Four months of the terms would be suspended if they also promised to stay clear of the clinic.

While sentencing the first group, Bouck said the protesters "are consumed with one issue in their lives."

"They do not see the potential harm their conduct can bring to

the very kind of society they are trying to achieve. If their behavior goes unpunished, we may have a society with no abortions, but we may end up having a country that is not worth living in."

Bouck said refusing to comply with the court order invites anarchy.

"It only encourages others to do the same thing. When that happens, justice is placed in jeopardy."

Before Friday, 141 people had received suspended sentences for contempt since the clinic obtained the injunction in January. Of those, 19 disobeyed the conditions of their release by returning to the clinic and received jail terms or two or three months.

Recent protesters have chained themselves to each other, the clinic doors and to concrete blocks.

When three members of this group appeared in court Thursday, they were required to post \$1,000 bonds to underline their promises to stay away from the clinic.

Hospitals accept deal with HEU

VANCOUVER (CP) — British Columbia hospitals have voted to ratify a tentative contract with their support workers, the hospitals' bargaining agent announced Friday.

The two-year deal between the 144 member facilities of the Health Labor Relations Association and the Hospital Employees' Union provides compounded wage increases of 14 to 14 per cent. The average union member earned about \$12 an hour under the old contract. The new agreement is retroactive to April 1.

The settlement came after a one-week strike that began June 24, although many union members were already off the job, honoring picket lines set up 10 days before by unionized nurses.

The employees' union strike eventually affected 80 hospitals and health facilities.

The 29,000-member union ratified the contract on July 11.

Seedling 'clones' embraced

Federal Forest Minister Frank Oberle and his provincial counterpart Dave Parker have applauded the discovery of a way to produce large numbers of seed embryo clones of Interior spruce trees.

"This breakthrough provides an opportunity which could lead to the introduction of superior seedlings with increased growth rates," said Oberle.

"A gram of this tissue can be induced to produce thousands of embryos," said Dr. Terry Howard, president of the B.C. Research Corporation in the release.

"As a result, large numbers of genetically identical seedlings could be produced from this tissue in a short time, using limited space."

The research was done at the Forest Biotechnology Centre of the B.C. Research Corporation in Vancouver.

Cleaning out the gene pool in the forest is not expected to earn plaudits from foresters studying the diversity of old-growth forest, like Dr. Jerry Franklin of the U.S. Forest Service, who has condemned

"production-line forestry" in scientific papers.

He says old-growth and natural forests, which are genetically diverse, are more disease resistant and provide a wider variety of benefits than masses of identical trees.

Chris Maser, author of The Redesignated Forest, has said that forests now being planted — before cloning — destroy natural diversity and the genetic strength to bounce back from problems.

Cloning would worsen the situation, argues Maser.

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"There's a surgeon general's warning on the potatoes."

