

led by 17 to 13 on the first ballot and by 16 to 14 on the second. Following these two ballots, a simple majority became sufficient to settle the contest. The third and fourth ballots were tied at 15 votes for each country. On the fifth, the U.S.S.R. won by a vote of 16 to 14. These figures show how close the contest was, since at any time during the last three ballots a change of mind by only one country would have been enough to decide the issue.

It thus became necessary to abandon the plan to celebrate the Canadian Centenary by a World Fair in Montreal. This historic occasion will, however, be celebrated fittingly in 1967 in some other way.

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COMPOSERS TO MEET IN STRATFORD

Several of the world's top composers are now making plans to come to Stratford for the International Conference of Composers, to be held here during the week of August 7 under the auspices of the Canadian League of Composers and the Stratford Festival.

Sir William Walton and Iain Hamilton have been named to represent Great Britain. Olivier Messiaen, Henri Dutilleux and possibly Darius Milhaud are expected from France. Tikhon Khrennikov, Secretary-General of the Union of Soviet Composers, will come from the U.S.S.R.. Dmitri Shostakovitch has also expressed a desire to attend if his health permits.

Italy is sending, among others, Luciano Berio, who has stirred great interest in Europe through his activities in the electronic-music field as well as with his orchestral compositions. Also in the field of electronics, Josef Tal, of Israel, is now completing a concerto for piano with electronic accompaniment for *première* at the concert of electronic music on August 12 in the Festival Theatre. Mr. Tal will play the solo part.

Karl-Birger Blomdahl, of Sweden, will be present to discuss his "space opera," *Aniara*, at the panel session devoted to contemporary approaches to opera. *Aniara* created a sensation throughout Europe last year when it was performed at the Edmiburgh Festival. Henk Badings will represent the Netherlands.

Other countries of Europe, South America and Asia are now selecting their delegates, whose names will be announced as soon as they are confirmed by Louis Applebaum, Conference Director of Music of the Stratford Festival.

The Conference will open with a banquet on Sunday, August 7, immediately after the Beethoven concert offered by Glenn Gould, Oscar Shumsky and Leonard Rose. Prime Minister John Diefenbaker has accepted an invitation to welcome the delegates, as well as to attend the afternoon concert. The schedule of panel discussions and concerts will go into full swing next morning in the Festival Theatre, where all sessions will be open to the general public.

The concerts, which will take place in both the Festival and Avon Theatres, will begin on August 8 with a concert by the National Festival Orchestra and soloists. The final concert, on August 14, in the Festival Theatre, will be given by the CBC Symphony, in one of its rare public appearances. To accommodate this 90-piece orchestra, the famous Stratford platform-stage will undergo alterations which will temporarily eliminate its marginal step to provide a larger performing area.

Another large ensemble journeying to Stratford is the 50-piece orchestra and soloists of the International String Congress. Under its director, Roy Harris, this orchestra will play a programme of music of the Western Hemisphere on Saturday, August 13, in the Avon Theatre. The special plane bringing it from Puerto Rico and Washington will land at London, Ontario.

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ARCTIC SUPPLY FROM HALIFAX

The Department of Transport icebreaker C.M.S. "Wolfe", will load 500 tons of cargo at Halifax this summer for the annual Arctic re-supply. About half the tonnage will consist of drummed fuel and diesel oil destined for Arctic ports of call.

The ship will leave Halifax about July 9 and will call at Cape Harrison, Resolution Island, Cape Hope's Advance, Payne Bay and Nottingham Island. This will be the first time cargo-loading for the annual Arctic re-supply has been carried out in part at Halifax, such operations having in the past been restricted to Montreal and Quebec. Both Department of Transport and Chartered vessels take part in the re-supply programme.

It had been expected earlier that the Halifax loading would be carried out by the Transport supply and buoy vessel "Sir William Alexander", but, for operational reasons, the icebreaker "Wolfe" will be used instead.

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GROUND OBSERVERS DISBAND

It has been decided that part of the Ground Observer Corps located south of the 55th Parallel N is to be disbanded effective June 1, 1960.

The Northern Division observation posts located to the north of this line will continue to be maintained to supplement the Distant Early Warning and Mid-Canada radar lines and to provide assistance in search and rescue.

The Royal Canadian Air Force Ground Observer Corps was formed in 1951 to assist the Air Defence System during its development by providing low-level coverage and early warning. However, this important contribution has been superseded in the southern area of the country by improvements in the radar systems and by other means of providing information on aircraft flying over Canada.