

CANADA AND NEW FRENCH AGENCY

Prime Minister Trudeau announced recently that Canada had ratified the Convention on the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation.

Canada participated actively in the second conference of countries wholly or partially French-speaking held in Niamey, Niger, in March 1970 for the purpose of creating an agency for cultural and technical co-operation among French-speaking countries. The Canadian delegation, headed by the Secretary of State, Mr. Gérard Pelletier, included representatives of the provincial governments of Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba. On March 20, subject to ratification, Canada signed the convention establishing the Agency.

In announcing the ratification by Canada the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction that, by this action, the Canadian Government had formally confirmed the support it had given to the establishment of such an Agency, which granted an institutional framework to *la Francophonie*. He reiterated that the participation of Canada in *la Francophonie*, and more specifically in the Agency, was a projection of Canada's bilingualism on the international level, and was within the framework of Canadian policy, aimed at bringing about the best possible relations with French-speaking countries, and increased economic co-operation with Africa.

With 23 member countries, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation is intended essentially to further the establishment and development of multilateral co-operation among its members in education, culture, science and technology, and thus foster closer relations among peoples who share the French language and culture.

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

Health and Welfare Minister, Mr. John Munro, has announced a federal program of research, training and public information in family planning. In adopting this program, Mr. Munro said that the Government supported the right of Canadians to exercise free choice in the practice of family planning. "It is our hope," he said, "that through the program, family-planning information and services will become available to all who want them."

The Minister said that his Department would encourage research in this field through grants and contracts to other agencies as well as within the Department. It will disseminate information on family planning in collaboration with provincial governments and private agencies.

VOLUNTARY USE OF SERVICE

Mr. Munro emphasized that use of the information and services to be offered would be on a voluntary basis. "The use of family planning," he said, "is a decision to be taken by the individual citizen. There

will be no suggestion of coercion toward anyone; we shall do everything possible to safeguard against that."

The Government has been concerned with Canada's rate of progress in reducing infant mortality, being outranked by countries having national family-planning programs.

"There is good reason to believe," Mr. Munro said, "that effective programs for family planning would reduce the incidence of unwanted children, of child neglect, abandonment, desertion, welfare dependency and child abuse."

The Minister pointed out that a number of provinces already offer family-planning services in varying degrees. Discussions indicate a positive interest in federal information and consultation proposals. The organization and administration of family-planning programs, will be assumed primarily at the provincial level.

INCREASED DEMAND FOR WHEAT

According to the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, Mr. Otto E. Lang, there has been an exceptionally strong demand for Canadian grain in recent months and a very good prospect exists that the volume of exports will reach 700 million bushels, surpassing the previous record of 685 million bushels exported during the 1963-64 crop year. Last year, 474 million bushels were exported.

The demand for feed barley has been particularly strong, and the Canadian Wheat Board has taken full advantage of the market conditions. Export commitments have been entered into by the Board for barley, which will ensure exports in excess of the previous record of 122 million bushels.

Forward sales for shipment during the 1970-71 crop year for wheat are also at high levels for this time of the crop year. Demand from both regular customers and new customers, as a result of the Government's expanded credit program, will result in a high level of wheat exports.

Demand for Canadian grain has been exceptionally heavy in recent months because of lower production in Australia, Argentina and Western Europe and the blight damage to the U.S. corn crop.

FIRST FULL-TIME CANADIAN ETV

Last month, Canada's first full-time educational television station began broadcasting from Toronto, serving a potential audience of 2,700,000 people in Youth Central Ontario.

Channel 19, which offers both school and community programming from the outset, is operated by the recently-created Ontario Educational Communications Authority. The Authority, which has, in effect, taken over the operations of the ETV Branch of the Ontario Department of Education, was established by legislation passed in June. Although it operates as