

Very little use of ICEM's services has been made by Canada over the years. None the less, Canadian participation in ICEM has involved an annual assessment of approximately \$200,000. In addition, in the past few years a grant of \$60,000 has been made to the Refugee Transport Programme of ICEM. While financial considerations were not the primary reason for Canada's withdrawal, it has become increasingly difficult to justify paying such a price for an organization of marginal use to Canada.

For the reasons I have given and because other international commitments have assumed a greater priority, the Government decided that Canadian participation in ICEM should be terminated. This decision in no way diminishes Canadian interest in refugee problems, an interest which will continue to be reflected in Canada's support in the United Nations for programmes of assistance to refugees. Canada is one of the main contributors to the work carried on by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In addition, the Government intends to examine from year to year the question of continuing a special voluntary grant of \$60,000 to the refugee transport fund of ICEM.

### Canada and the Cuban Quarantine

*On November 2, Mr. Diefenbaker made the following statement concerning "the quarantine measures being applied by the United States against shipments of offensive weapons and war material to Cuba":*

... The United States Navy has been directed to stop and search and, if necessary, divert ships of any nationality entering the quarantine area around Cuba. The United States Government has now instituted arrangements whereby, as a service to international shipping and in order to avoid delays due to stoppage and search at sea, advance clearance may be obtained at the last port of call before entering the quarantine area. Application for a clearance certificate may be made by a ship's agent, or other ship's officer, to a local United States consular officer, who is empowered to issue a clearance certificate after inspection of the ship and its cargo. These procedures are available to ships of any flag, including those of the Soviet bloc.

The Canadian Government has agreed to these advance clearance facilities being made available to ships in Canadian ports for as long as the quarantine arrangements are in force. There is, of course, no question of compulsory inspection of any ships when in Canadian waters, but rather of their being free to take advantage of these facilities in order to avoid possible subsequent delay and inconvenience.